

Israelis swing to right

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc and its far-right and religious allies would win an Israeli general election if it was held now, according to two public opinion polls published Friday. The polls showed a right-wing alliance would win enough seats to rule Israel without having to form another national unity coalition with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party, although Labour would remain the largest party in parliament. The next election is due Nov. 1. The findings appeared to confirm a widespread belief that a five-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has pushed many Israelis towards the right. A Dohat poll in the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper showed Likud would win 39 out of 120 parliamentary seats. The rightist Tehiya and Tsomet nationalist splinter parties would take nine seats together. Religious parties usually allied with the right would win 11 seats and the right-wing extremist Kach movement of Rabbi Meir Kahane would win 10 seats, giving the combined right a majority with at least 61 seats. On the left, the poll gave Labour 44 seats, small left-wing and centre parties a total of eight and Communist-linked mixed-Israeli-Arab parties seven seats.

Jordan Times

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Iraq accuses Iran of shelling Basra

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq accused Iran of shelling the southern port city of Basra Friday and threatened to hit back, saying Tehran was bent on resuming the so-called "war of the cities." Baghdad's daily military communique said the shelling damaged civilian property. "We strongly warn Iranian rulers against the consequences of their insistence to ignite the war of the cities... Iraq's patience will not last long and the Iranian rulers will have to bear the bitter results of their wicked actions," it said.

Sudan-Ethiopia committee meets

KHARTOUM (R) — Officials from Sudan and Ethiopia, which accuse each other of backing rebel movements against their governments, have begun talks on ways to improve relations, the official Sudan news agency (SUNA) said Friday. The technical committee was expected to make recommendations to a ministerial meeting in Addis Ababa and to the leaders of both countries when they meet later this month in Ethiopia.

Danish swing party wants broad coalition

COPENHAGEN (AP) — The key party in Denmark's post-election bargaining rejected an offer Friday to join a socialist government and called for a broad coalition drawn from the left and right, Danish radio reported. Niels Helveg Petersen, leader of the Social Liberal Party, said the next cabinet should have wide support in the 179-member parliament, the radio said. Most of Denmark's post-war governments have lacked a parliamentary majority.

Whitehead urges Arabs, Israelis to consider U.S. peace plan

RABAT (R) — U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead urged all parties to the Middle East conflict Friday to study carefully the latest American peace plan. "In this plan there are some ideas that have not been set forth before. This plan does provide the seeds for some real progress, that is why I urge everybody to study the details closely," he told a news conference. Whitehead, who discussed the Middle East issue with the leaders of Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco during a North African tour (see page 5), added: "We cannot afford, none of us, to allow the situation in the Middle East to revert to a situation in which no effort is being made to find a solution to that problem... we must have some further steps to progress." Whitehead said it was not an Israeli plan, but a U.S. attempt to find middle ground between the Israeli and Arab positions.

Iranians vote

NICOSIA (AP) — Aytollah Ruhollah Khomeini, squelching shock market rumours he had died, voted in the final round of Iran's parliamentary elections Friday. The official Islamic Republic News Agency said Khomeini, assisted by his son Ahmad, cast his vote in a special mobile polling booth outside his heavily guarded residence in north Tehran's Jamana suburb soon after the polls opened at 7 a.m. (0330 GMT). Hours earlier, rumours swept the Hong Kong stock market that Khomeini had died. In the first round of voting in April, 188 of the 270 Majlis, or parliament, deputies were elected. Friday's runoff poll will decide the winners in the other 82 electoral districts, including 16 of the 30 in Tehran, where no candidate got a clear majority last month.

Iranians hold anti-Israel rally

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian demonstrators chanting "Death to Israel" burned President Reagan in effigy Friday to display their solidarity with the Palestinians, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. The agency said millions of people took to the streets in rallies across Iran to mark "Qods Day."

Worshipers clash with Israeli troops

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian worshipers clashed with Israeli soldiers at the Haram Al Sharif complex after Friday prayers and said at least 15 were shot and wounded by troops, according to eyewitnesses quoted by news agencies and local reports.

An estimated 5,000 worshipers crowded the sacred Al Aqsa Mosque to mark the final Friday of the Holy Month of Ramadan, a severe drop in attendance from previous years. The Israeli army closed off large parts of the occupied territories and blocked Palestinians from reaching Jerusalem to worship.

As an army helicopter hovered overhead and military police perched on rooftops, about 1,000 worshipers emerged from prayers chanting "Allah Akbar" slogans and burning Israeli flags. Several hundred buried stones at a nearby Israeli police station.

Hundreds of helmeted military police then broke into the complex, firing rubber bullets to disperse the protesters.

Army radio said 15 protesters and two policemen were injured. Police spokesmen could not be reached for comment.

Israel Radio said at least 20 people were arrested. Hundreds of worshipers remained inside the Al Aqsa Mosque, afraid to leave, after police entered the Haram Al Sharif. The prayer leader called on police to withdraw.

Arafat denounces Nicosia car blast

NICOSIA (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat scot a message to President George Vassiliou Friday denouncing a car-bomb blast this week that killed three people and wounded 15. A government announcement said Arafat's message also expressed condolences for the victims of Wednesday's blast in Nicosia near the Israeli embassy.

U.N. calls on U.S. to accept World Court ruling

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The General Assembly urged the United States Friday to respect a World Court ruling that the dispute over the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) U.N. mission should go to binding arbitration.

Only the United States and Israel opposed the resolution, adopted by a vote of 136 to two, with no abstentions. It was the fourth time since last December that the assembly had voted overwhelmingly to counter a U.S. anti-"terrorism" law — enacted against the wishes of the Reagan administration — demanding the closing of the PLO's U.N. office by March 21 this year.

After Friday's vote, the U.S. again said it would take no action to shut down the mission until a U.S. district court had ruled on a suit it filed against the PLO in March.

Legal experts said this could

"Go away" prayer leader Mohammad Hussein called out through the mosque loudspeakers. "Allow the Muslims to leave peacefully."

Outside, worshipers paraded Palestinian flags and black flags of mourning as they circled the mosque complex.

"Jews out!" the protesters chanted. "We don't want to see any Zionists."

Others shouted: "No fear, no fear. The stone is better than the Kalashnikov."

Unprecedented precautions were implemented to thwart expected violence beginning Thursday night, when the faithful celebrated the Lailat Al Qadr marking the revelation of the Koran to the Prophet Mohammad.

The Israeli army sealed off the Gaza Strip, allowing no one in or out, and police and soldiers turned back cars from the West Bank heading for Jerusalem.

At least 3,300 policemen were deployed in Jerusalem. The army also clamped curfews on 120,000 Palestinians in Nablus, the largest West Bank city, and neighbouring refugee camps.

The explosion was the worst such attack in Cyprus in recent history and sparked off angry demands for strong action against Middle East-related attacks on the island.

Vassiliou said one measure adopted by a security conference overnight was the beefing up of counter-terrorist units "particularly in Nicosia."

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A military spokesman said the curfews were imposed in the morning after the army received reports that protests might break out.

Curfews were also in effect in parts of Gaza City and the Dheisheh refugee camps near Bethlehem.

Journalists and non-residents were barred from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank city of Ramallah.

There were at least three roadblocks in the 15 kilometre stretch of road between Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Soldiers turned back every car bearing West Bank licence plates unless drivers carried special permits.

In Sa'ir village near Hebron, troops carried out house-to-house searches, Palestinians said.

In Gaza City, protesters clashed with troops after Friday prayers at the Omar Mosque. Palestinian sources said.

Violent protests were expected

this weekend on the dual anniversaries of Israel's creation and the start of its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967.

Leaflets circulated by underground resistance groups in Gaza called for a general strike Sunday to mark the Israeli anniversary.

On Thursday, Israeli troops shot and killed a Palestinian in Qabatiyeh after he allegedly ignored soldiers' order to halt during a search of the village, the army command said.

The death brought to 187 the number of Palestinians killed since the beginning of the uprising on Dec. 8.

Israel Radio said the army would start re-opening West Bank schools next week after a nearly four-month closure. Elementary school classes would resume first, the report said, followed by junior high and high schools if no protests occurred.

The U.S. State Department,

Thursday criticised Israel's arrest of three Palestinian journalists. "We strongly oppose efforts to restrict the free expression of views through the press," said State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley.

Raid on Lebanon

Israeli warplanes blasted Palestinian targets south of Beirut Thursday. At least one fighter was wounded.

Six fighter-bombers took part in the eighth aerial attack on Lebanon this year.

They rocketed and destroyed three olive groves near the Kharrub region town of Barja in three bombing runs, police said. Barja is 27 kilometres south of Beirut.

The raid began at 6:05 p.m. (1605 GMT), just before sunset, and lasted 10 minutes. The positions were manned by members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, police said.

Pro-Iranian militia gains ground in war with Amal

Syrian troops kill 5 Hizbollahis

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian troops shot dead five of a force of pro-Iranian militiamen who pushed into Syrian-held West Beirut during battles with rival Shi'ite Amal gunmen Friday, police said.

About 30 Hizbollah (Party of God) fighters, clad in military fatigues covered with Iranian flags, had thrust out from Beirut's southern suburbs and seized a major Amal post controlling the main airport road in the Al Raml Al Aaali area.

Security sources and witnesses quoted by the AP and Reuters said Syrian troops on the airport highway shot dead five of the Hizbollah fighters after they took positions a few metres from Syrian checkpoints.

Syrian troops had previously taken no part in the battles which erupted last Friday between the Iranian-backed Hizbollah and the pro-Syrian Amal militias for control of the southern suburbs.

But Brigadier Ali Hammoud, the head of Syrian operations in Lebanon, had warned that the Syrians would "eradicate any militia presence" in areas under their control.

The magazine Al Shiraa said Friday foreign hostages had been

moved to a less vulnerable prison amid the Amal-Hizbollah battles.

The magazine said the blindfolded hostages were taken last Saturday to the house of Sheikh Ibrahim Al Amin, the spokesman for Hizbollah, believed to be an umbrella group for kidnappers.

Police said 10 people were killed and 18 wounded in Friday's fighting, which ended a 36-hour truce, one of several cease-fires

(Continued on page 3)

Iraqis hit two vessels; Iranian ship 'explodes'

BAHRAIN (AP) — Eleven crewmen of an Iranian cargo ship were injured in an attack by Iraqi aircraft, and a tugboat towing the crippled vessel was damaged in a followup raid 13 hours later, a London-based maritime agency said Friday.

Iraq reported another attack by its warplanes on a "large naval target" off the Iranian coast Thursday afternoon, its ninth such report in the past two weeks. The latest report appeared to coincide with the attack on the tug, as reported by Lloyd's ship-

ping intelligence unit.

However, a Gulf-based shipping source said he had received information that the Iranian cargo vessel, the Iran Nahad, "exploded" during an attack about 1:20 a.m. Thursday (2220 GMT Wednesday), and may have been carrying arms.

The source, who has shipping connections in the area but spoke on condition that he not be identified, also quoted his informant as saying the tugboat was searching for survivors of the blast. (Continued on page 3)

Superpowers brief their allies

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz briefed North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies Friday on the outcome of the talks he had with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Wednesday and Thursday and the Soviet minister met with Warsaw Pact allies in East Berlin for a similar briefing.

The NATO allies told Shultz that the Senate should ratify the U.S.-Soviet medium-range missile treaty now that technical disputes have been settled.

"We think the way is now open for the treaty to be ratified" before U.S. President Ronald Reagan meets Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow

May 29, said David Mellor, a British minister of state. Reagan and Gorbachev signed the pact in Washington in December.

U.S. and allied officials have expressed concern that failure to ratify the arms treaty before the summit could spoil the atmosphere at the meeting and set back efforts to reach other arms control deals.

Shultz briefed allied officials on his two days of talks in Geneva with Shevardnadze, where the two sides resolved differences over how to ensure compliance with the treaty.

On Thursday, both Shevardnadze and Shultz had ruled out the possibility of completing a

strategic arms treaty at the Moscow summit.

Hours after Shultz and Shevardnadze had pronounced the problems resolved on Thursday afternoon, a new dispute arose. Lower-level officials on both sides argued through the night before settling the matter Friday morning.

Shultz told reporters in Brussels he was pleased with the outcome, but he declined to say whether he thought the Senate would be satisfied.

The Senate had postponed debate on the treaty Monday after some members accused Moscow of leaving loopholes for possible cheating.

In a short report on the Eastern bloc ministers' one-day briefing with Shevardnadze, the East German news agency ADN said the allies gave their full support to Moscow's methods of negotiating with the United States.

"They expressed their hope that the negotiations between Gorbachev and Reagan will yield substantial agreements in the sphere of halving strategic offensive weapons and on other disarmament questions," the agency said.

All Warsaw Pact foreign ministers except Romania's came to the briefing at the Niederschoenhausen guest house in Parkland on the northern outskirts of East Berlin.

Earlier, ADN quoted Shevardnadze as telling East German leader Erich Honecker in a separate meeting that Moscow still hoped to reach agreement with Washington on strategic missiles.

"Shevardnadze said progress and substantial results could be reached in all the areas to be discussed," it said.

U.S. Senate sets terms for Saudi deal

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate Friday reacted to the Chinese sale of a medium-range missile to Saudi Arabia by imposing a new condition on the sale of U.S. weapons to the kingdom. The Senate said that before the United States could sell arms to Saudi Arabia "or to any other nation which has procured CSS-2 Chinese-made missiles," the president had to certify to Congress that the purchasing country "does not have chemical, biological or nuclear warheads for such missiles." The condition was contained in an amendment attached by voice vote to a bill authorising \$299.5 billion in defence spending in the 1989 fiscal year. The Reagan administration has proposed selling \$825 million worth of military hardware and services to the Saudis amid congressional concern over the Saudi purchase of the Chinese sale of the 3,500-kilometre-range CSS-2 missile. Administration officials have said that both the Chinese and the Saudis have given assurances that the Saudi missiles will not be fitted with nuclear warheads, although CSS-2s in the Chinese arsenal are nuclear weapons.



His Majesty King Hussein Thursday performs Omra (Petra photo)

King back after Omra, talks with Saudi leader

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein returned home Friday morning at the end of a brief visit to Saudi Arabia, where he held talks with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz and performed Omra, minor pilgrimage to Mecca, and spent Lailat Al Qadr at the Holy Mosque in Mecca. At dawn Friday, the King visited the Prophet's mosque in Al Medina Al Munawwara and performed the Prophet's tomb.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, who accompanied the King, held talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal on the latest developments in the region and reviewed means of further enhancing bilateral relations.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibo

Zaid and on the Saudi side by Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham Nazer.

In addition to Rifai, Qasem and Prince Ra'd, the King was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal and the King's advisor for tribal affairs.

The King and the delegation were the guests at an iftar banquet hosted Thursday by King Fahd.

The King also met Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, who was also in Mecca to perform Omra.

Upon arrival in Amman, King Hussein and the accompanying delegation were received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and high-ranking officials.

Arab leaders receive pre-summit messages

TUNIS (Agencies) — Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali Friday received a message from Algerian President Chadli Benjedid concerning the upcoming special Arab summit scheduled for early June.

The meeting, to be held June 7 in Algiers, has been called to discuss the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The message was delivered by Benjedid's emissary, Mohammad Sherif Messaadia, who arrived in Tunis Tuesday night following a visit to Tripoli, where he delivered a summit message from Benjedid to Muammar Qadhafi.

Messaadia said the meeting with Ibn Ali at the palace in Carthage was "an opportunity to hear his points of view on a number of bilateral issues and common interests." He did not elaborate.

Messaadia already has visited Morocco and Mauritania to deliver messages preceding the summit.

Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahim arrived in Saudi Arabia Thursday to invite King Fahd to the league summit.

Israel says Soviets agree no solution can be imposed

TEL AVIV (R) — The Soviet Union has told Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres that an international Middle East peace conference should not be empowered to impose solutions on the area, according to a senior Israeli official.

"Aleksander Zotov, deputy head of the Communist Party's foreign affairs section, told Mr. Peres in Madrid this week the conference should not be able to dictate solutions to the parties concerned," said the official who briefed reporters on condition he not be identified.

His report was in sharp contrast to that of a colleague who

said here two weeks ago that Moscow had hardened its stance on the U.S.-proposed conference and that prospects for rapid breakthrough were dimming.

The official who spoke to foreign newsmen April 29 said Washington had told Israel that Moscow insisted the conference should have the right to decide solutions.

Peres has long campaigned for Israeli endorsement of the conference on grounds it is the only way to secure direct talks with the Arab states.

The Israeli official also reported that Zotov told Peres visas would be issued before June 15.

Philby buried in Moscow with full military honours

MOSCOW (R) — British-born master spy Kim Philby was buried in a Moscow cemetery Friday with full military honours, including a brass band and three volleys fired over his grave by a Soviet KGB guard of honour.

The funeral, attended by about 200 mourners led by Philby's Russian wife Ruffa and British son John, was held in bright sunshine at Kuntsevo military cemetery in the western suburbs of Moscow.

Thirteen wreaths from relatives, friends and colleagues were borne to the graveside and four funeral orations read out by the open coffin paying tribute to Philby as "a great internationalist and famous Soviet intelligence agent."

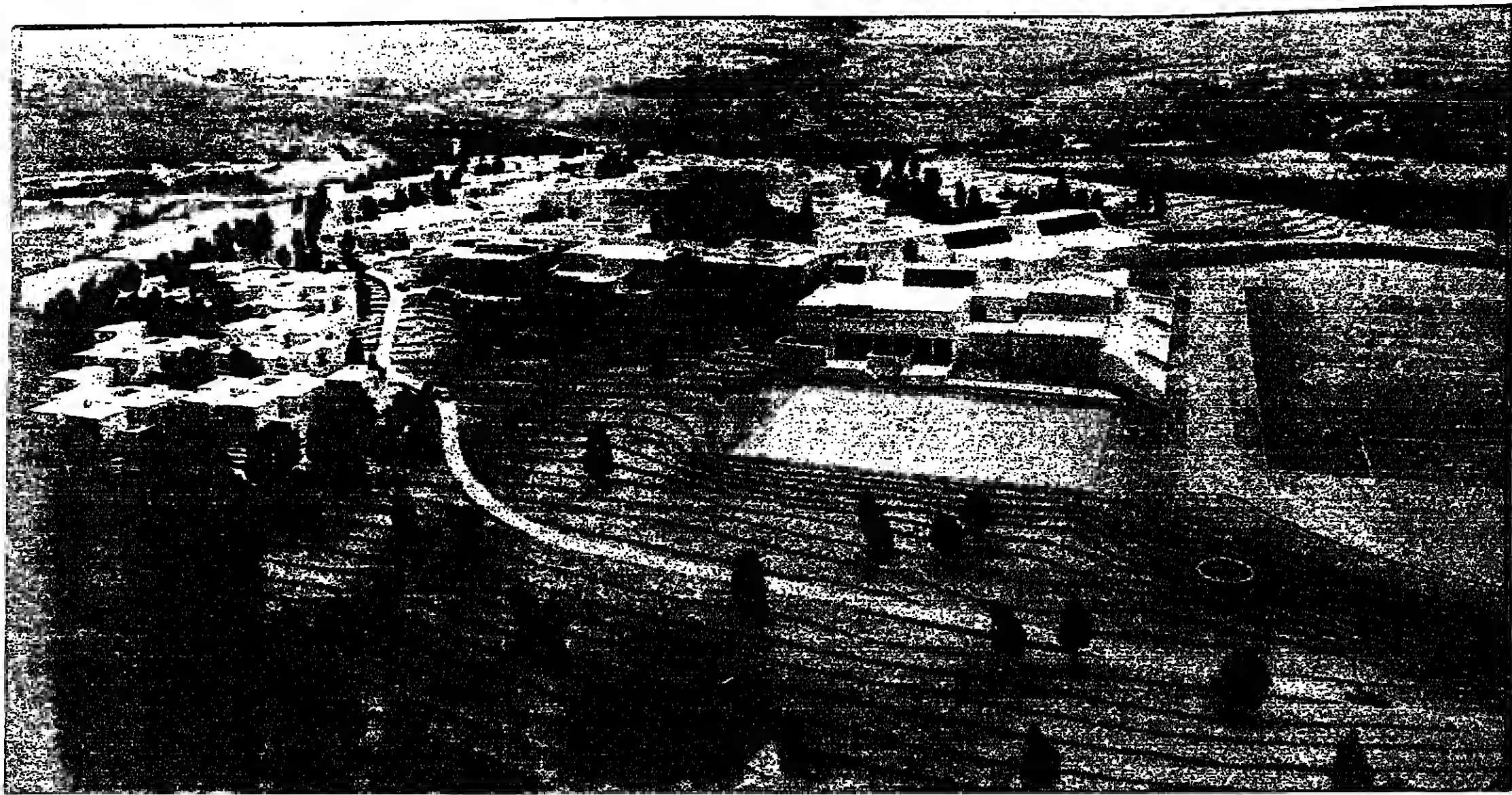
One unidentified orator, a well-built man wearing a dark suit and glasses with swept-back hair, told the mourners Philby, who was 76, had "unceasingly devoted his life to the cause of peace and a brighter future."

The spy, who penetrated British intelligence and came close to being appointed its head in the late 1940s, had been "a man of great charm and intellect," he added.

Another speaker in his early 20s and also in civilian clothes said Philby had spent his last few years "on training the young generation" — an apparent reference to new recruits to the KGB, the committee of state security.

Earlier, TASS news agency, reporting his death Wednesday, confirmed that Philby continued to work for Soviet intelligence after his defection to Moscow in 1963.

The honours accorded him at the funeral appeared to confirm reports that he ended his career as a general in the KGB, although no reference was made to his rank during the funeral. All four orators referred to him simply as comrade Kim.



Model showing the proposed design of the Jubilee School

Jubilee School: A gift for the gifted

By Meg Abu Hasnadan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — One of the largest projects the Royal Endowment for Culture and Education, chaired by Her Majesty Queen Noor, is currently involved with the establishment of the Jubilee School — a project people are slowly becoming aware of but about which little is generally known. Not scheduled to open until September 1990, the Jubilee School will be a boarding secondary school for academically talented boys and girls from all over the country. The school is also intended to serve as a model for the development of secondary education in Jordan and the Arab World.

The need for such a school has arisen out of the fact that while there is now virtual universal education for boys and girls at both the elementary (grades 1-6) and the preparatory (grades 7-9) levels there is, at present, no provision in the educational system for the preparation of outstanding students with special abilities and talents. The Jubilee School's main aim is to provide the educational opportunities for these students enabling them to reach their full potential and in the long term to go on to assume responsible leadership roles in the country. Furthermore, as all the places at the Jubilee School will be funded by scholarships and because all students attending the school will be boarders, the chance to receive this super-

ior secondary education will be available to students from every socio-economic background. The school will in fact be especially oriented to provide places for talented girls and boys from rural and underdeveloped urban backgrounds.

High cost
"By having all the children join the school on the same bases, that is they will all be on scholarships, all boarding and all chosen because of their special capabilities, we feel this will help to integrate the children more which would serve the objectives of the school better," the Jubilee School Project Director, Mrs. Nawal Hashash-Kamal told the Jordan Times. "Costs however will be high," she continued, "around JD 1,000 per year per child. To help cover that cost we want to establish a trust fund which will rely on institutions and foundations who would support the school not only because of its objectives, but because eventually the graduates from the school will serve the community. We have received every encouraging support from the government who, we hope, will support the project both financially and from the human resource point of view. We also hope the parents who can afford to would also help."

In addition to its role of providing superior secondary education to children from all walks of life, the Jubilee School will have other important purposes. According to the school's prospectus the

school would serve as an example of the commitment to quality education and as a laboratory to put advanced programmes into practice; it would stimulate higher standards of secondary education; it would contribute to the development and testing of curricula, instructional methods and materials; it would provide programmes and experiences for faculty from other schools in the Kingdom and neighbouring countries and finally it would offer facilities and resources to student groups for conferences, meetings and special educational programmes.

The first steps towards establishing the school are already underway as set by a special plan of action proposed by an outside consultant. The school has a 210 dunam site, donated by the Jordanian Armed Forces and located in the vicinity of the Royal Scientific Society and the University of Jordan. In order to achieve the best possible architectural design for the project, an architectural competition was set.

The winning scheme submitted by the local firm of Jafar Tukan and Partners, relies on the idea of a series of low rise buildings that hug the contours of the land. Carefully worked out, the design not only fulfilled the clients brief but achieved an aesthetically pleasing solution that should, once built, harmonise with the surrounding landscape.

In addition to classrooms, laboratories, art and technical

workshops and the usual support facilities there will be a library, a multi-purpose hall seating 650 people, a gymnasium, two swimming pools, a track and football field and basketball and tennis courts. Five boarding houses accommodating 60 students each will be provided for girls and another five for boys.

Staff selection

While construction is being carried out, staff and then the students would be selected.

"We have already started to set criteria by which staff will be appointed," Mrs. Kamal said. "A school of this kind is very demanding and we will need teachers who are not only good in their disciplines but who are committed to their work. We also have a prospective training programme which will enable the selected staff to attend further training both in Jordan and abroad. These courses will cover aspects of gifted education as well as training in their special disciplines. Even our administration staff will have to be specially selected and trained for this school," Mrs. Kamal added.

The faculty in student ratio, one teacher per 18 students, will be kept low in order to allow for individualised attention and a variety of activities that are related to a full educational programme.

Ultimately the school will be composed of two sections of approximately 300 boys and 300 girls each headed by a vice prin-

cipal. During the first three years 100 boys and 100 girls will be enrolled, the primary criteria for admission being academic achievement, personality, physical fitness and a potential for superior performance.

"At present we are starting to prepare the instruments and tools we need to measure these criteria," Mrs. Kamal said, "and these tools must be experimented with and developed until we are sure they are good enough to select the right child."

After these criteria have been prepared students from each preparatory school in the country will be invited to apply. Achievement and aptitude tests will be used to screen the applicants and the list will be narrowed down to approximately 500. More tests designed to reveal special talents and abilities will be given resulting in the selection of 150 girls and 150 boys. The last step will be personal interviews from which the final 200 students will be chosen.

Beyond academics

The Jubilee School programme will be set so that it will reach beyond academic training in order to develop student's abilities in a variety of fields appropriate to the aims of the school and the capacities and talents of the students. While following the Ministry of Education's requirements in principle, the school will have unusual freedom to develop its own curriculum, textbooks and methods. Furthermore the

resident-boarding school concept will permit the school to contribute to all areas of students life, intellectual, cultural, vocational, social and moral.

Students will be encouraged to participate in activities of particular interest to them such as art, music, drama, photography, electronics as well as in community service projects such as helping at a hospital or a primary school, teaching adults to read, etc.

"We would like the students, where possible, to work in their own localities. As well as providing assistance in areas that might not otherwise receive it, this also would prevent the children being cut off from their own backgrounds," Mrs. Kamal said.

Endurance and self-reliance would be fostered through camping and hiking expeditions under difficult conditions, while a comprehensive sports programme would develop leadership, sportsmanship and team spirit.

To aid in the development of the Kingdom's educational system, special programmes for teachers would be designed which would allow them to work with teachers from the Jubilee school. The experience these teachers would acquire in the methods of teaching developed at the school could then be shared with their colleagues in their own districts. Students from other schools would also be allowed to make use of the Jubilee School's library, laboratories and clubs when not in use especially over the summer months.

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. — May 14, 1988

8:30 Yes Prime Minister

9:10 Man and Music

Mozart: Dropping the Patron
Mozart was one of the first composers to try and make a living as a freelance. For the first five years of his life in Vienna he met with considerable success, thanks mainly to his prowess on the keyboard and the acclaim he received for his operas The Abduction from the Seraglio and The Marriage of Figaro.

8:30 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

The Secret of Blood Island

A girl parachutist secret agent is smuggled into a Japanese POW camp and out again. Absurd blood and thunder, almost perversely enjoyable — but not quite.

Sun. — May 15, 1988

8:30 Check it Out

Howard Bannister, a harassed supermarket manager who dreams of a better life beyond the checkout. He runs a tight ship, despite a tidal wave of employee inefficiency, and struggles to keep the peace between his irascible staff and colourful customers.

9:10 World in Flames

10:00 News in English

10:20 Private Eye

11:30 Rich man, poor man

Mon. — May 16, 1988

8:30 Perfect Strangers

9:10 Secret Army

Trapped

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

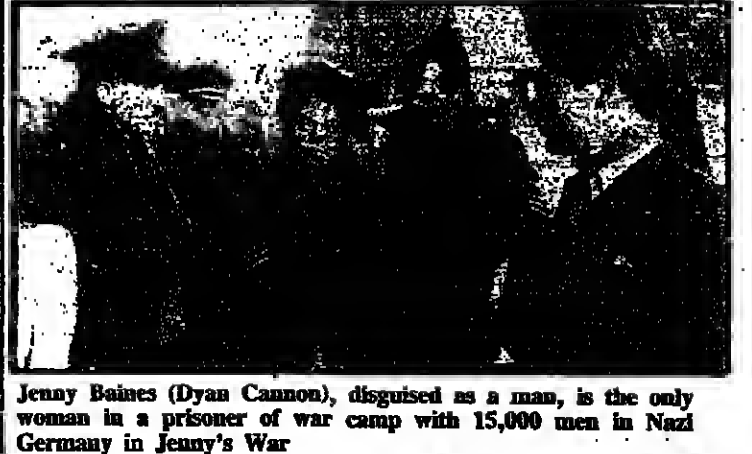
The Glenn Miller Story

Starring: James Stewart
The story of one of the greatest of American "big band" leaders. It is the story of Miller's rise from obscurity and poverty to fame and wealth which was lovingly charted and generously punctuated by his music.

Tue. — May 17, 1988

8:30 I married Dora

When he draws up his will, Peter breaks his promise to Dora and leaves custody of the children to his rich sister-in-law.



Jenny Baines (Dyan Cannon), disguised as a man, is the only woman in a prisoner of war camp with 15,000 men in Nazi Germany in Jenny's War

9:10 Nuclear Weapons
This episode discusses the nuclear weapons, and the complex relations between the buyers, the dealers and the government officials.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Murder She wrote
Unfinished Business

11:30 Rich man, poor man

Wed. — May 18, 1988

8:30 Guinness Records

9:00 Hooperman

9:30 Twilight Zone

10:00 News in English

10:20 Jenny's War.

Mini Series
Starring Dyan Cannon, Ellie Sommer, Robert Hardy
The story of Jenny Baines who wants only to find her son. Instead, she finds herself trapped in a prisoner of war camp with 15,000 men — and the Gestapo hunting her down.

Thur. — May 19, 1988

8:30 Charlie Chaplin

The Rink

9:10 Wish me Luck

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Penalty phase

Starring: Peter Strauss

Do! hang this man or set him free on the technicality? That is the question facing Judge Kenneth Hoffman. It's not an easy question to answer when elections are in one week and the accused is an admitted murder rapist. Get ready for an explosion of emotions and politics in Penalty Phase.

Fri. — May 20, 1988

8:30 Carol Burnett

9:10 Magnum

10:00 News in English

10:20 Falcon Crest

11:10 Rich man, poor man

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 771111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

14:00 Korna
14:25 Programme review
14:55 Cartoons
15:05 Children's series
15:20 Religious programme
15:45 Ramadan puzzle
16:00 Arabic play
16:15 Cooking programme
16:45 Religious series
17:30 Health and Fasting
17:50 Arabic comedy
18:20 Ramadan contest
19:00 Religious programmes
19:30 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Puzzles from all over the world
22:00 Historical series
23:40 News Summary in Arabic
23:50 Arabic series
01:05 Religious programme

PROGRAMME TWO

13:00 Le chevalier de pardailon
(French series)
19:00 News in French
19:15 The Blood
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Yes, Prime Minister
21:00 Man and Music
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "The Secret of Blood Island"

RADIO JORDAN

85 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
& partly on 890 KHz. SW
Tel. 771111-19

07:00 Morning Show
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 News Summary
11:00 Hitville: The Story of Motown
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:30 Jordan Weekly
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumental/Old favourites
17:00 Special Feature
17:30 Good Old Days
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Top Twenty
19:00 Newsdesk/Music
20:00 The Young Sound
20:30 Discovering Music

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1327 KHz

7:00 Newsdesk 7:30 Here's Humph!

7:45 Reflections 7:50 Financial News

8:00 World News 8:05 24 Hours

News Summary 8:30 Personal View

8:45 The World Today 8:50 Newsdesk

9:00 Meridian 10:00 World News

10:05 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30

From the Weeklies 10:45 Network UK

11:00 World News 11:00 Reflections

11:15 A Jolly Good Show 12:00 World

News 12:05 British Press Review 12:15

The World Today 12:30 Financial

News followed by Sports Roundup

12:45 Personal View 13:00 News Summary

13:15 Letter from America 13:30 People and

Politics 14:00 World News 14:05

About Britain 14:15 Big Bands — The

Singers 14:30 Meridian 15:00 Radio

Newsweek 15:15 Multitrack 3 15:45

Sports Roundup 16:00 World News

16:05 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary

16:10 World News 16:15 Sports

sportsworld contd. 17:45 World News

18:00 Newsweek 18:15 Sports-

sportsworld 19:00 World News 19:05

Commentary 19:10 News Summary

19:15 Squeaking the Triangle

00:15 The Seven Ages of Man 00:30

People and Politics 01:00 World News

01:05 From Our Own Correspondent

01:25 Book Choice 01:30 New Ideas

01:40 Reflections 01:45 Sports Round-

up 02:00 World News 02:05 Commen-

tary 02:15 The Tony Myatt Request

Show

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565,
11740, 11925 and 15710 Hz

07:00 News 07:10 VOA Morning 08:00

News 08:10 VOA Morning 08:00 News

09:10 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10

Closure 10:30 Press Conference, USA

19:00 News 19:10 American View-

points 19:30 Special English News &

Features 20:00 News 20:10

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

★ Plastic Art Festival by 30 Jordanian and Arab artists at Tower Building.

★ Permanent book exhibition, at Tower Building, Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle.

★ School exhibition, at Sukaina and Al Hussein School, Jabal Hussein.

★ Festival of Islamic Heritage and Books at the Roman Theatre, Amman.

★ Arabic Calligraphy exhibition, by Abdul Rahim Al Tawil and Abdallah Al Shamaileh, at the Islamic Cultural Centre, University of Jordan.

VIDEO FOR CHILDREN

★ "Pippi Langstrumpf" (German) at 4:00 p.m. at the Goethe Institute

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 661067

American Centre 644371

American Centre Library 641520

British Council 6361478

French Cultural Centre 637009

Goethe Institute 641993

Soviet Cultural Centre 644203

Spanish Cultural Centre 624049

Turkish Cultural Centre 639777

Haya Arts Centre 665195

Husseini Youth City 6671816

Y.W.C.A. 641795

Amman Municipal Library 637111

Univ. of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Manazah, Jabal Lweideh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.

Mariyeh's Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916 Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Church of Amman. Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lweideh, Tel. 637440.

De la Solle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.

Torrens Church (Roman Catholic), Jabal Lweideh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 623669.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 635363, chaplain's residence tel. 601359.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.

Assiout International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677534.

Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir 811295.

Rabbi's Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Interdenominational-evangelical English Service: Sunday 6:30 p.m. Tel. 823465, Rev. Veli.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) 815817, 821264

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 533025, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

07:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

10:15 Agaba (RJ)

10:30 Cairo (RJ)

10:30 Kuwait (RJ)

10:30 Damascus (RJ)

10:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)

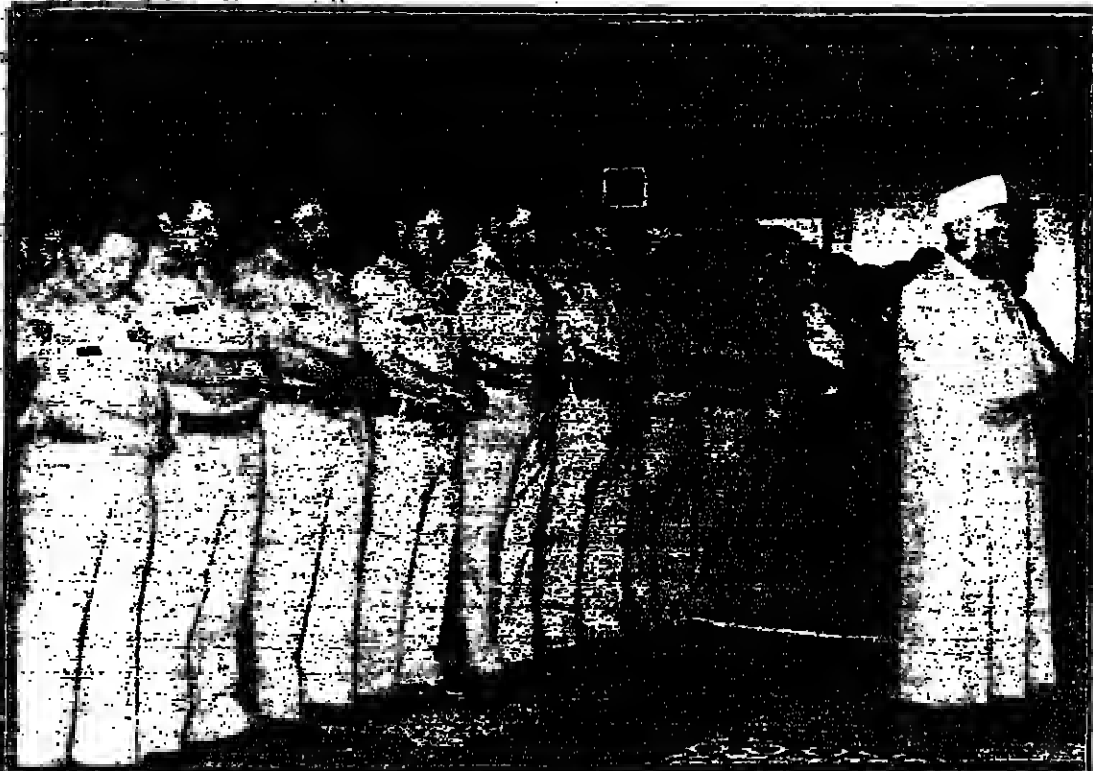
10:50 Dhahran (RJ)

10:50 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)

10:50 Cairo (RJ)

10:50 New York, Vienna (RJ)

10:50 Athens



IFTAR FOR ARMED FORCES: Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid bin Shaker Thursday hosted an iftar banquet at Al Hussein Youth City for senior officers from the Armed Forces, Public Security, Civil Defence and Intelligence Departments. Later Sharif Zaid attended a ceremony held at the

Palace of Culture on the occasion of Lailat Al Qadr (the night when the Holy Koran was revealed) and distributed awards to winners of a "pilgrimage competition." Senior army officers attended the ceremony. The photo shows the mufly of the Armed Forces leads the prayers before the iftar banquet (Petra photo)

Amman to expand computer system

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Municipality has agreed to a project which will expand the computer system in the municipality to link 20 different areas of the municipality, and facilitate the delivery of its services to the public in accordance with the decentralisation theory adopted by the municipality.

During a meeting at the municipality, headed by Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, it has also decided to implement different new projects, which include building new public parks and maintenance of streets and cleansing the capital. Rawabdeh also instructed that a flower and house plant exhibition be organised in downtown Amman and rewards to be given to the owners of the prettiest gardens in Amman and the cleanest restaurants.

23 more garbage trucks

Meanwhile, Greater Amman Municipality will increase its fleet of garbage collecting trucks by 23 to boost the municipality's capability of handling the capital's increasing amounts of waste, Rawabdeh said Thursday.

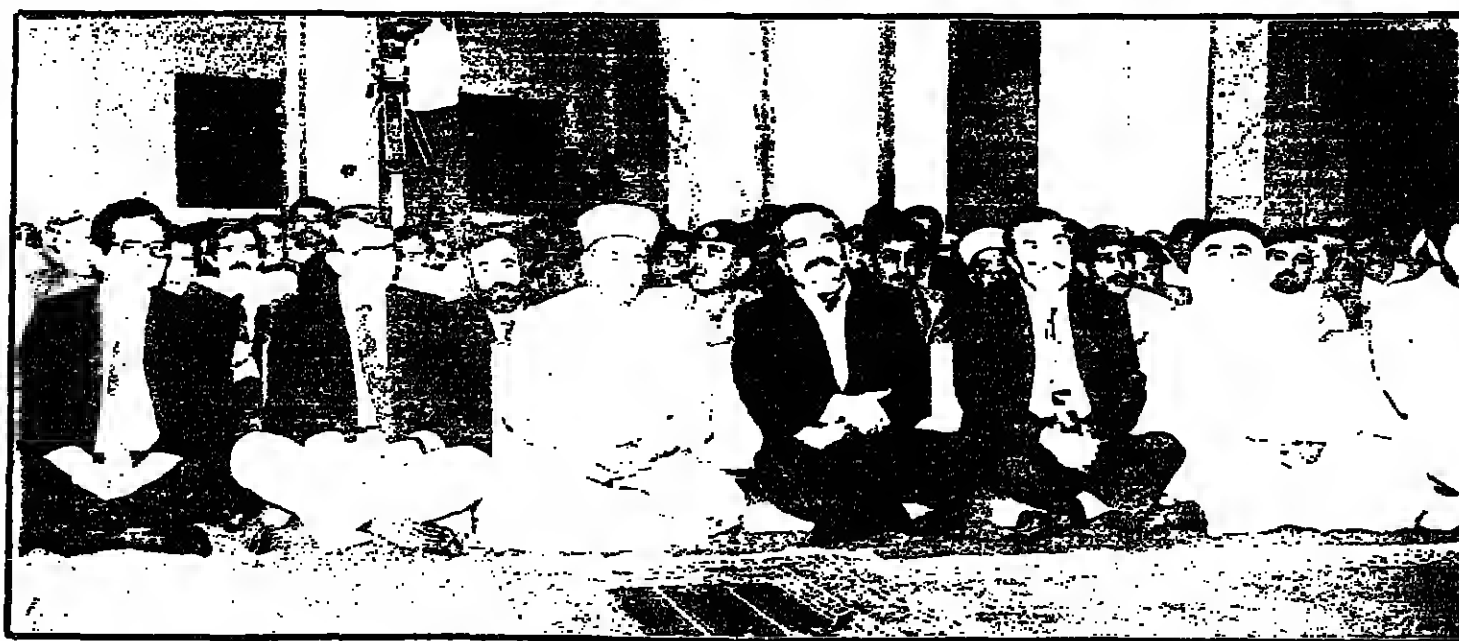
Rawabdeh said that the decision was taken by the municipality's council at its meeting in which other issues pertaining to general cleanliness were discussed.

The cost of the new trucks he said will be more than JD 709,000 which will be part of \$30 million loan to the municipality from the World Bank.

Rawabdeh announced that the council approved of a tender for setting up a building to house the municipality's laboratories, which will cost JD 360,000.

The project, to be set up near the Independence Street, will be built on a three-dunum plot of land, the mayor said.

The council approved of a visit by Rawabdeh to Rabat in July, accompanied by a municipal council team, to sign a protocol paving the way for closer cooperation between Amman and the Moroccan capital.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan attends a religious ceremony at Abu Qoura Mosque in Amman Thursday. Also present are Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat

(Prince Hassan's right) and Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Hamdi Tabbara' (second from left)

Lailat Al Qadr marked at Abu Qoura Mosque

Khayyat calls for Muslim solidarity to face threats

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan attended a religious ceremony held Thursday evening at Abu Qoura Mosque in Amman to celebrate Lailat Al Qadr (the night when the Holy Koran was revealed).

Prince Hassan and the worshippers heard a sermon by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat on the occasion, referring to the early Muslims' struggle and calling on Muslims to maintain their solidarity in the face of external threats.

The Ministry of Awqaf's Secretary General Abdul Salam Abbadi addressed the worshippers at the outset of the ceremony which also included recitation of verses of the Koran.

Prince Hassan visits JUST

Prince Hassan earlier visited Jordan University of Science and

Technology (JUST) near Irbid and hosted an iftar banquet for the university president and the staff, attended by Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad and other officials.

The Prince conveyed to the guests His Majesty King Hussein's greetings and spoke about higher education in the Kingdom, paying tribute to efforts being made at the higher level of education in the country.

Referring to community colleges, he said, they offer courses enabling graduates to find jobs in different fields. But he said more efforts should be made to link

courses to the labour market's needs so that the graduates may not become unemployed.

Prince Hassan said Jordan is now receiving a large number of Jordanian expatriates returning to settle in the country from the Gulf Arab states.

"These returning citizens enjoy a high level of skills in administration but Jordan finds it impossible to absorb them in their different fields, nor can it rehabilitate them to contribute to the country's development," Prince Hassan noted.

Prince Hassan announced that he will be making tours of different governorates in the coming three months to maintain a dialogue with the public on issues of concern to all citizens in the country.

Referring to school education stage in the country, Prince Hassan said that children under sixteen years of age in some areas

were leaving school, thus increasing the problem of illiteracy in Jordan.

He suggested that the compulsory stage at schools be extended until children are at least 16 years of age.

The concerned authorities are now studying the prospect of offering students who complete their secondary education to serve their conscription period before absorbing them in health, agricultural, maintenance and other fields, and later allow them to enrol at universities, when they are more mature, Prince Hassan said.

Referring to teachers he said that their training should be within a comprehensive strategy in the Kingdom, preparing them to become tools for social change.

Following Prince Hassan's speech there was an open dialogue in which university teachers and administrators took part.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree has been issued endorsing an amendment to the law of organisation and building within municipal councils' boundaries. Under the new revised law, owners of violating buildings will be allowed to settle their violations in accordance with the provisions of the law.

BIG FISH: A fisherman in Aqaba has caught a seven-metre-long fish on the Aqaba coast according to a report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The paper said the fisherman had to ask the help of the ports authority to pull the fish out of the water.

DRUG TRAFFICKER JAILED: The military court has sentenced Ghazi Ali Ibrahim Al Anqar to five years in prison and the payment of a JD 500 fine for trafficking with bashish. The military governor has endorsed the sentence.

TEAM TO GO TO HUNGARY: A team from the Civil Service Consumer Corporation (CSOC) will go to Hungary after the Eid Al Fitr Feast to conclude contracts on the purchase of consumer products. Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that another team will go to China shortly for a similar mission.

TALKS IN TUNIS: Jordan's ambassador in Tunis Talal Al Hassan Thursday discussed with Tunisian Minister of Cultural Affairs existing bilateral cooperation in the cultural field as well as organising a Jordanian cultural week in Tunis.

FOOD FACTORY CLOSED: The Public Safety Committee in Na'our district has closed down a foodstuff factory and a number of restaurants and shops for violating public health and safety regulations. The committee chairman said that violators of such regulations will be prosecuted.

CENTRES FOR HANDICAPPED: The Ministry of Social Development will open four new centres for the rehabilitation of handicapped people in Jordan in cooperation with the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), according to Al Dustour Arabic daily. It quoted Ismail Abdul Qader, director of the ministry's Special Education Department as saying that the four centres will be established in Amman, Jerash, Tafleh and the Jordan Valley.

Syrians kill 5 Hizbollahis

(Continued from page 1)

Beirut's slums.

A police spokesman said an aide of a senior Syrian officer was killed by a Hizbollah sniper on the Syrian-controlled highway that runs through the embattled slums at mid-afternoon.

Al Shira'a, a Beirut-based weekly, said the hostages were moved to Amin's house in a relatively safer south Beirut area, but did not name the neighbourhood where the house is located.

Shi'ite sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Amin's house is in Manshih street in the Harek Hreik slum about 50 metres from the residence of Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual leader of Hizbollah.

The weekly, which was the first to report the secret U.S. arms sales to Iran in November 1986, did not say where in south Beirut the hostages were imprisoned before they were moved.

Syrian troops moved into most of west Beirut on Feb. 22 last year to end militia battles and halt hijackings and kidnappings. But they kept out of the southern suburbs.

Hizbollah's advance out of the suburbs gave its fighters control over access from Beirut to South Lebanon and the airport, the only public air link between Lebanon and the outside world.

Witnesses and security sources said Hizbollah fighters tore Lebanese flags from government buildings and replaced them with Iranian flags during their offensive Friday.

An Amal communique asked that Syria and Iran take joint action to "punish Hizbollah for its premeditated violation of the cease-fire, in accordance with the provisions of the truce agreement."

Police said the personal representatives of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Iranian Pres-

ident Ali Khamenei were holding crisis talks with delegates of the two warring factions at the Iranian embassy.

Hizbollah's fighters won control of 70 per cent of the slums before the latest cease-fire was proclaimed Wednesday. Police said Friday's drive left only the Shiyah district under Amal's control.

Police earlier said the truce had been strained because Hizbollah refused to withdraw from areas captured from Amal.

The spokesman said Hizbollah demanded restoration of all the bases it lost to Amal in South Lebanon last month, in return for a withdrawal in South Beirut.

Geagea survives attack

In another development, security sources in predominantly Christian east Beirut said hard-line militia leader Samir Geagea survived an apparent assassination attempt Thursday night when a car packed with explosives blew up as his convoy was passing.

Iraqis hit two vessels

(Continued from page 1)

but was not itself attacked.

There was no way immediately to reconcile the conflicting reports. Iran does not divulge details of Iraqi raids on its coastal waters.

A U.S. navy battle group led by the aircraft carrier Forrestal sailed through the Suez Canal, en route to the Arabian Sea, where it will operate in support of the U.S. escort operations in the Gulf.

The Lloyd's agency, which monitors commercial shipping activity worldwide and Thursday had confirmed one of two claimed Iraqi air attacks

1000 fires reported in 1988

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Civil Defence Department (CDD) has reported 1,000 fires in different parts of Jordan in 1988. Al Dustour Arabic daily quoted CDD Deputy Director Colonel Dhib Maani as saying that tens of thousands of dinars were wasted as a result of these fires which happened mostly due to carelessness.

The paper also reported the death of four people and the injury of several others in road accidents that occurred in Amman and other areas of the Kingdom.

Ministry aide inspects government projects

SALT (Petra) — The Director General of the Ministry of Public Works inspected Thursday a number of government construction projects.

The most prominent among these projects is the Al Hussein Hospital Project in Salt which will be finished in the middle of next year.

Another project is the civil defence building which will be finished in June.

The total cost of these construction projects is JD 2 million.

3 new post offices opened in Mafrag

MAFRAQ (Petra) — The Department of Telecommunications in the Mafrag governorate opened three new postal services offices in the village of Ein Zanika and Um Al Sarb in the governorate.

The department has also decided to open a new postal office in the city of Mafrag to improve the postal services in the city and decrease the pressure on the already existing offices.

Arafat denounces Nicosia blast

(Continued from page 1)

larity with a view to follow up the activities of Arab visitors."

He told foreign newsmen the introduction of visa restrictions was also being considered "for certain countries," which he did not name.

The local office of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had issued a statement shortly after the blast denying involvement and denouncing "this ugly crime."

That came after an anonymous caller telephoned the American television network NBC in New York claiming responsibility for the blast for the notorious anti-Arafat Palestinian leader Sabri Al Banna, better known as Abu Nidal.

Interior Minister Christodoulos Veniamin said two Lebanese men were responsible for the deadly blast in what he called a bungled attempt to blow up the embassy.

He said Thursday the explosion came as the driver of the car, who

was prevented by police from parking in front of the embassy, was racing to warn his accomplice not to detonate the bomb by remote control.

The four-wheel Mitsubishi Pajero exploded on a bridge 200 metres from the embassy, killing the driver and two Cypriot passersby.

Police arrested the man with the detonator near the bridge and identified him as Omar Ahwad Hawilo, 28. The dead driver whose body was pulverised by the explosion was identified by fingerprints from a severed hand found some distance from the bridge.

Veniamin named him as Kadour Gaonajm and said there was evidence that "these two persons cooperated in committing the crime."

Vassiliou said that in addition to Arafat's message, the Arab ambassadors in Nicosia also had collectively denounced the attack.

Snap elections seen in French cards

(Continued from page 1)

post as foreign minister and Jean-Pierre Chevènement was appointed defence minister.

Conservatives said the most telling appointment in Rocard's cabinet was that of former communist Jean Popperon, who has said Mitterrand should dissolve parliament immediately. He was named minister for relations with parliament.

Neither of Mitterrand's two prime ministers between 1981 and 1986, Laurent Fabius and Pierre Mauroy, featured on the new government list. Both men are battling for the influential post of head of the Socialist Party vacated by Jospin.

Centrist leader and former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, invited to the Elysee

Palace, spent over an hour in talks with Mitterrand, "to analyse the political situation," as Giscard later told reporters.

Giscard repeated that the right would not automatically introduce a parliamentary motion of no confidence in the Rocard government, but would judge its policies on their merits.

Opinion polls conducted right after Mitterrand's May 8 reelection triumph indicated the Socialists would win a majority of seats if an election were called immediately.

Political commentators said if the Socialists won a majority, Mitterrand could reissue the invitation to centrist politicians to collaborate with a new government, on his terms.

Labour delegation returns from Egypt

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian labour union delegation returned from Cairo Thursday after representing Jordan in the Arab Labour Union meeting for the support of the steadfastness of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, which was held in Cairo over three days.

The director general of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions said the meeting which was attended by delegates from ten Arab countries had recommended that a fund, based in Cairo, is established to support the uprising.

The delegations also recommended that the May 15 and Dec. 28 of every year be commemorated as a show of solidarity by Arab labour unions with the Palestinians and to mark the memory of the first day of the Palestinian uprising respectively.

The director general also indicated that the participants have called on all Arab labourers to call on Iran to accept United Nations Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for an end to the 8-year-old Iran-Iraq war, and to pressure all parties who have been supplying Iran with arms and ammunition to discontinue their support, in order to force Iran into accepting a peaceful end to the war.

Ministry arranges for 136 summer camps

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education has made arrangements for setting up 136 summer camps in different parts of the Kingdom during the coming summer, according to Hassan Alaudin, director of the ministry's Students Affairs Department.

He was quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily as saying that students from different schools will be allowed to join these camps and take part in their different activities. The estimated 20,000 participants will embark on these activities early in August.

Jordanian-Egyptian committee to meet

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee on-Chair by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Aref Sidki will hold its two day meeting in Amman by the middle of June, according to a report in Al Dustour Arabic daily.

It said that the joint committee will discuss the process of economic integration between the two countries and the implementation of joint projects and means for promoting bilateral trade.

Meanwhile in Cairo, the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf met with the Egyptian

Minister of International Cooperation to review the process of bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

IFAD aide, ministry discuss small farmers

AMMAN (Petra) — A specialist from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Dr. Mohammad Hasani held talks here Thursday with the secretary general of the Ministry of Social Development and other officials projects for improving living conditions of small farmers in the Kingdom.

Discussion also covered schemes to be financed through an IFAD loan for improving the lot of low income families living in rural regions of the Kingdom.

The project will be implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Agricultural Credit Corporation.

Ministry to appoint 50 dentists

AMMAN (J.T.) — At least 50 dentists will be appointed to work at Ministry of Health clinics during 1988 to raise the number of dentists at government health centres to 170, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh announced Thursday.

The minister, who was speaking at the inauguration of the Quweismeh Health Centre near Amman, said that the Health Ministry has so far provided primary health care services to nearly 90 per cent of the Kingdom's population through health centres.

The Health Ministry is employing all means available to it in order to spread health centres all over the country with the purpose of responding to a World Health Organisation call on all countries to achieve primary health service to all people by the year 2,000, Hamzeh said.

It is hoped, he said, that Jordan will achieve that goal before the end of the century.

The new centre at Quweismeh will provide services to some 40,000 residents living in the town as well as Naharieh, Um Nuwara, Hay Amawi, and the Interior Ministry Housing Estate, in addition to low-income families living

in eastern districts of Amman and Al Wabdat.

The centre which has been provided with a full staff of doctors and nurses offers mother and child care, health education sessions and school health services.

With the inauguration of this centre the Ministry of Health has thus opened five primary health care centres in the Amman region over the past two months.

The other four are located at Naour, Um Tineh, Nuzha and Nazzal districts.

Several health officials and local notables attended the opening ceremony.



Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh inaugurates a new health centre at Quweismeh near Amman Thursday (Petra photo)

Jordan Times

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: 'Real rebellion'

IN addressing his people at Maan on Wednesday King Hussein made it clear that the Palestinian uprising was a real rebellion waged by the oppressed people against the occupation forces. It was not a mere show of protest that can end soon, but rather a popular action in the face of the Israeli forces designed to protect the national identity. The uprising's leadership, which declared its strategy in communique number 16, has set the guidelines for further actions and more civil disobedience which is part of the current uprising. The new step means that the uprising and the rebellion were going ahead unabated and that, regardless of the repressive actions and the atrocities, the Arab people of Palestine would pursue the struggle for freedom and for liberating their occupied lands. The multitude of forces massed by the Israelis in Jerusalem to prevent further protests on Friday and to confront the worshippers after the noon prayers will not be able to deter the rebels nor will it ever stop the torrent of the uprising. All indications point to the fact that the current rebellion is gaining momentum and that Arab and Islamic support for the steadfastness of the Palestinian people is bearing fruit. As King Hussein said, this uprising is a real rebellion which requires continued support and backing from the Arab and Muslim Worlds.

Al Dustour: City with a symbol

KING Hussein chose to address the nation from the spot where his grandfathers launched the resistance against the colonial rulers of Greater Syria. It was from Maan that the Arab forces under the standards of the Great Arab Revolt moved northwards to liberate Arab lands and to pursue efforts for unifying Arab people. Jordan had the honour to bear the standards of the great revolt; and King Hussein inherited the leadership of this country and dedicated his life and efforts to achieving that revolt's objectives. Ever since he assumed leadership of this country the King has spared no effort to fulfil the aspirations of his people in true commitment to these principles. Since the outbreak of the revolt in Arabia at the turn of the century, Arab people have been struggling against the aggressors and pursuing efforts to abort conspiracies directed against the Arab Nation. King Hussein was careful to point to these facts, referring to the current Arab resistance against foreign attempts to dominate the Arab World from the east in Iraq and from the west in occupied Palestine. The monarch paid tribute to the Iraqi and Palestinian people for their sacrifices and their heroic efforts in repelling the aggressors and in their endeavours to preserve Arab identity and safeguard Arab rights and interests.

Sawt Al Shaab: Uprising escalating

THE Palestinian uprising seems to be escalating everyday, making it clear to the whole world that it is a real rebellion as described by King Hussein in his iftar banquet at Maan. This uprising is a natural reaction to the continued occupation and oppression, and is designed to regain Arab rights and lands in Palestine. The uprising has no doubt ended claims by Israel that through occupation of Arab land the Jewish state has achieved peace and security. King Hussein told his audience that Jordan was committed to help the Palestinians in their struggle and will strive to convene the projected international conference so that a just and durable solution for their problem can be achieved. But this uprising and Jordan's diplomatic efforts require real backing and genuine and serious support on the part of the Arab and Islamic countries. Real support and collective action are also required for extending support for the Iraqi people who are repelling aggression directed against the whole Arab World.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Collective action

AGAIN King Hussein has reiterated his pledge to serve the Jordanian people and the Arab Nation. In an iftar banquet held at Maan the King re-emphasised the basic principles of the Jordanian political stand and the Kingdom's commitments towards the Palestinian people and land. His speech at Maan was a renewed pledge for the Arab Nation that Jordan will pursue the struggle and the active work in cooperation with Arab countries for rescuing the holy places and liberating the Arab land from occupation. Jordan under King Hussein and through the Amman Arab summit was able to strengthen Arab countries stands and unify their positions not only towards joint action but also towards liberating usurped Arab territory and repelling aggression. King Hussein's call for the formation of a pan-Arab corps was a clear indication of this country's readiness to protect every inch of the homeland and to confront any eventuality. But at the same time, the King said Jordan was for peace and would do everything possible to arrive at a durable settlement ensuring the rights of the Palestinians.

Al Dustour: Frank and open

KING Hussein spoke frankly and openly in an interview with the Kuwaiti news daily Al Qabas pointing out Jordan's policies towards the Palestine issue and the international conference. The monarch reiterated Jordan's position and said that this country cannot act on behalf of the PLO in the projected international peace conference but will strive to convene that conference which should be attended by the PLO along-side all the concerned parties for the sake of achieving a lasting settlement. The King's words were frank and clear in reviewing the situation in the occupied territories; and he said that the current uprising had shaken the earth from under Israel's feet.

Beirut Shi'ite battles said linked to political power-sharing

By Samia Nakhoul
Reuters

BEIRUT — Behind the see-saw bloody battles in Beirut's southern suburbs is a struggle among pro-Syrian and pro-Iranian Shi'ite militias jockeying for power in an expected new government. They said Syrian-backed Amal militia were trying to eliminate fellow Shi'ites of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) from one of their last strongholds to exclude them from power-sharing in a new government.

But with the two outside backers Syria and Iran apparently unwilling to jeopardise their ties for the sake of their Lebanese allies, the Amal-Hizbollah clash was unlikely to bring victory to either of the two parties the short-term, they added.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Fierce battles between them for the control of Beirut's southern suburbs have engulfed the area since last Friday, killing at least 143 people and wounding 477.

The fighting comes less than four months before the Lebanese parliament is due to elect a new president. A new government is expected to be formed soon after and Lebanese of all shades are already positioning themselves for the event.

"Hizbollah is fighting to consolidate its military status as a bargaining card in any political settlement that will accompany the election," one political analyst said.

Despite differences over Leba-

non, Syria and Iran have been working together to try to produce an effective ceasefire to prevent those differences from jeopardising their regional ties.

Political framework

Pro-Syrian political sources said recent U.S.-Syrian talks had reached a consensus on a basic political framework for the run-up to the presidential poll, including the exclusion of Christian and Muslim radicals from the political process.

But Syria, the main foreign power-broker in Lebanon with some 25,000 troops here, is reluctant to see the Muslim hardliners pushed out before their Christian counterparts, the sources said.

Syria wants the United States to use its influence among

Lebanese Christians to press army commander Michel Aoun to end Christian militia control over east Beirut before it deals with Muslim radicals, one source said.

Since the beginning of the year, Syria and the United States have been unusually working together to ease Lebanese tensions and prepare the ground for a successor to President Amin Gemayel, a Christian who ends his six-year term in September.

The American-Syrian political settlement envisaged the deployment of Syrian troops in the Shi'ite suburbs together with a takeover by the Lebanese army in east Beirut and the ousting of the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, the sources said.

"Syria won't crush Hizbollah

without a price and so far they haven't got it," one independent analyst said.

"As long as the (Christian) hardliners are still in control of east Beirut, Damascus will not take action against Hizbollah, which has fought Israel in South Lebanon," he said in an apparent reference to the popularity gained by Hizbollah for its willingness to confront Israel.

An earlier Syrian-led attempt to settle power-sharing in Lebanon and meet Muslim demands for more say collapsed in 1986 when Gemayel and LF commander Samir Geagea refused to endorse it. Since then, the LF has been Syria's staunchest opponent.

War of attrition?

Officials with links to both Hiz-

bollah and Amal believe the fighting in the suburbs will turn into a war of attrition.

Damascus will wait until both sides are weakened before intervening to separate the combatants, they added.

"Even if Syrian troops deploy in the suburbs, they will avoid a military showdown with Hizbollah because this would upset the strategic alliance with Iran," said one analyst.

"Iran in turn is keen more than ever to protect its relations with its only Arab ally," he added.

Damascus is Tehran's main Arab backer in its war with Iraq.

Iran, seeking a power base in Lebanon, has been steadily increasing its influence among Lebanon's Shi'ites, estimated to number 1.2 million among a

population of 3.4 million. Hizbollah, which emerged after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, has challenged Amal's supremacy in South Lebanon by keeping up military pressure on Israeli troops and their Christian-led militia allies.

Hizbollah took a severe battering in three days of clashes between the two sides across South Lebanon last month and the Beirut suburbs, which it is now defending, are its main stronghold.

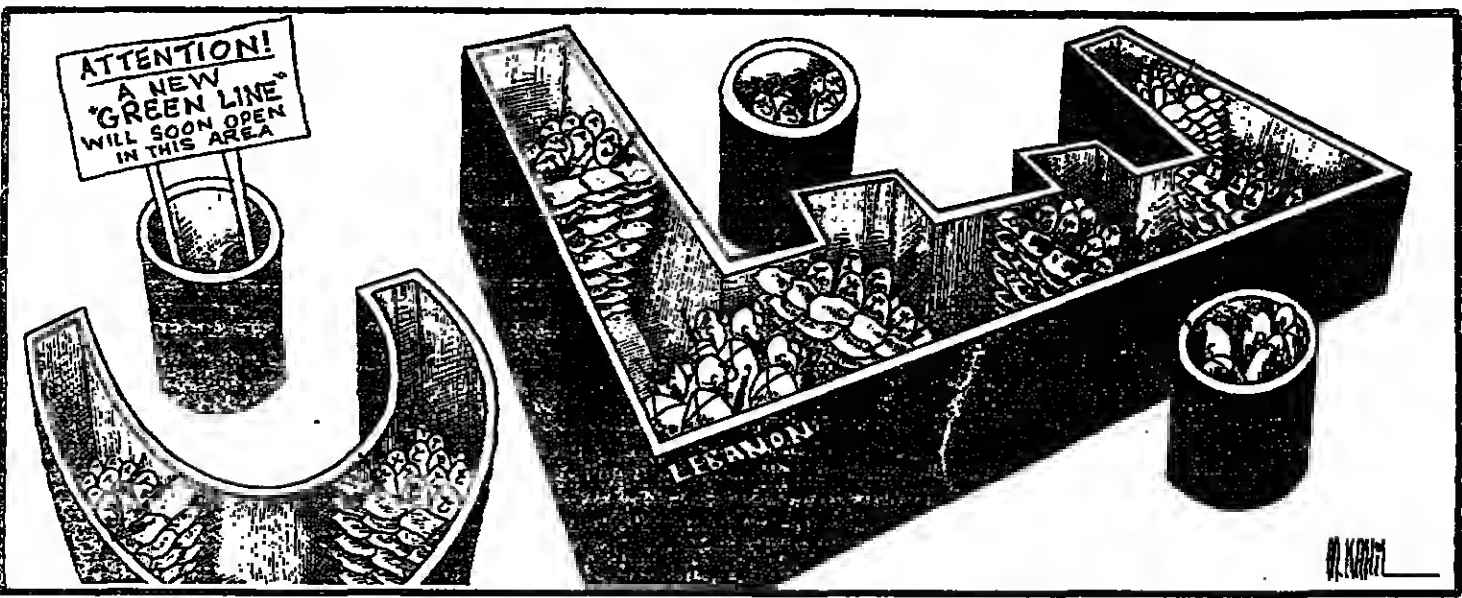
Another obstacle facing Syria's deployment in the 41-square-kilometre semi-autonomous suburbs is the presence of some of the 22 foreign hostages there.

"Syria will face international pressure to free the hostages when and if it enters the suburbs... This is a tight spot for Syria because the hostage issue is an Iranian concern," said an Amal security official in an apparent reference to alleged links between Iran and the hostage-takers.

Hizbollah, inspired by the revolutionary fervour of Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, seeks an Islamic state in this part-Muslim, part-Christian country.

Amal, founded by Iranian-born cleric Imam Musa Sadr in the mid 1970's, demands political reforms that will give the Muslims a bigger share in the government with the Christians.

Amal has a more moderate image, taking part in the government and helping to free some of the foreign hostages held in Lebanon by Shi'ite radicals.



Gorbachev expects endorsement of reforms

By Carol J. Williams
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev wants only supporters of his reform programme to attend an upcoming Communist Party conference, ignoring the past quota system for choosing delegates from different social groups.

In a weekend meeting with prominent editors, Gorbachev said old methods of choosing delegates to party conferences would be scrapped for the party gathering planned for June 28, the first of its kind since 1941.

The 5,000 people to take part should be chosen solely on the basis of their support for the reforms, he said.

"There must be no more quotas, as were the case in the past, specifying how many factory workers and farmers and how many women are to be elected, among others," Gorbachev said. "The principal political directive is to elect active supporters of perestroika to go to the conference."

Others who spoke at the meeting appeared to endorse that approach and perestroika. Gorbachev's effort to rebuild Soviet society.

The 57-year-old party chief met with the media and ideology leaders on Saturday, but full reports on the exchange were released by the official TASS news agency Tuesday night and early Wednesday.

Gorbachev complained that conservatism continues to pose the biggest threat to his reforms and that the doubters have raised questions about whether the nation is turning away from Socialism.

"Some people have indeed lost

their bearings amid all these processes under way," Gorbachev said.

"Some people have failed to keep their heads and panicked," he said. "And the panic — and this is very serious — has taken the form of asking: 'Isn't perestroika coming to mean the wrecking and rejection of the values of socialism, isn't it giving rise to alien phenomena, isn't it destabilising society?'"

Gorbachev said not everyone who fears his reforms or has resisted them should be branded "an opponent of perestroika."

The Kremlin's no. 2 man, ideologue in the minds of many people — workers, intellectuals and administrators alike," Gorbachev said.

"And let us be blunt, not only on the ground level, but also on the top."

He did not make clear whether misunderstanding about his plans to bring about a more democratic society and stronger economy reached as high as the 13-member politburo over which he presides.

The Kremlin's no. 2 man, ideologue Yegor K. Ligachev, is reputed to advocate a more conservative approach to resolving the nation's problems than Gorbachev, although the extent of their differences is known to few outside the ruling politburo.

The June 28 party conference is expected to change the face of the party leadership and replace conservatives with more active supporters of perestroika.

"It is necessary to rid socialism of everything pseudosocialist, distorted and deformed in the period of the personality cult," Gorbachev said, referring to the influence of late dictator Josef Stalin, who ruled the country for 29 years before his death in 1953.

Gorbachev's call for electing reformers to the party conference drew support from the editors and cultural leaders, according to the TASS report.

"I would very much wish that the people who with their life and deeds have proved their commitment to perestroika by all means would go to the party conference and, on the contrary, that people who oppose it, who hamper its progress would not be present at the conference," said Kirill Lavrov, head of the Soviet Theatre Union.

Prominent editors like Sergei Zalygin of the Journal Novy Mir (New World) and Ivan Laptev of the government newspaper Izvestia said the reforms themselves have introduced new problems and a lot of uncertainty.

"We should not think that those whom we describe as the mass of the people — the intellectuals, the working class and the peasantry — that all of them are delighted with perestroika," Zalygin said. He criticised the party and media for at times being poor listeners and failing to heed public opinion.

Laptev also blamed the state-run press for some of the problems encountered in the reform effort.

As an example, he cited the media silence and distortion of events in Nagorno-Karabakh, a region of Azerbaijan that ethnic Armenians want annexed to their republic.

Large demonstrations and clashes between ethnic groups took place in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, but Soviet authorities prevented foreign journalists from travelling to the area and the Soviet media failed to report some developments.

Regan book: A laughing matter for America's image?

By Joan Mawer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Don Regan's revelations about life and stargazing in the White House may be a laughing matter to some, but some experts are worrying that his memoir could damage America's image abroad.

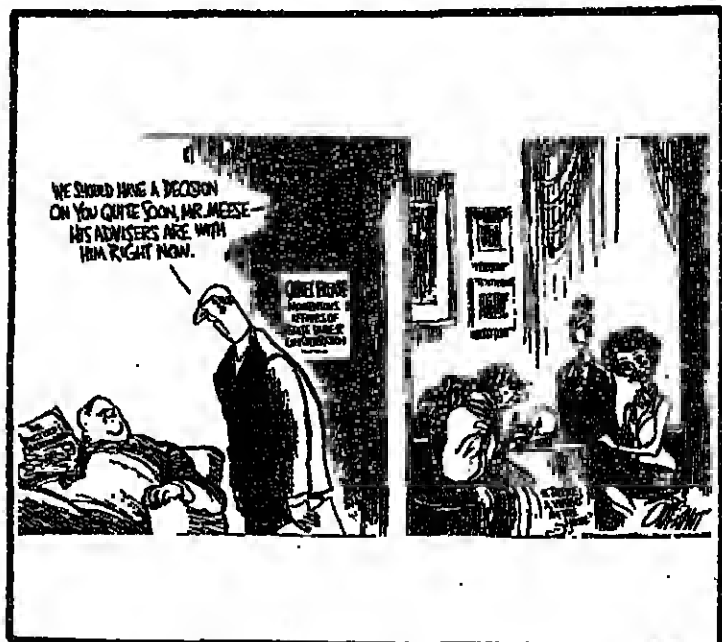
"There is no doubt that his type of so-called revelations are harmful because... they give foreigners the impression that U.S. officials are not to be trusted," says Richard Helms, the former CIA director. "This tends to erode their credibility."

Regan was White House chief of staff until he was forced out in early 1987, reportedly after a feud with first lady Nancy Reagan. His book, *For the Record*, depicts Ronald Reagan as a passive president, loathe to make decisions and manipulated by a wife held hostage to the stars.

Books like Regan's "diminish the president's stature, and for the rest of the Western world, so much depends on the president's prestige," said Henry Brandon, a longtime Washington correspondent for the London Sunday Times and now a visiting scholar at the Brookings Institution, a liberal think tank.

With a U.S.-Soviet summit in Moscow less than a month away, one Soviet scholar said the book — particularly details of Mrs. Reagan's penchant for astrology — provides fodder for Soviet propaganda.

The revelations may reinforce the perception Soviets have of Americans as a weird, superstitious and somewhat untrustworthy breed, said Jerry Hough, a professor at Duke University and the author of a just-published



book, *Russia and the West: Gorbachev and the Politics of Reform*.

The stargazing passages "confirm a picture of America that is a strange and, in many respects, a not totally rational place," Hough said.

Soviet concerns

The Soviets have long been concerned that the United States is "not a reliable partner" because of Congress' failure to ratify the SALT II treaty, among other things, Hough said.

The book also says Mrs. Reagan looked dimly on Raisa Gorbachev's sparkling dinner-table conversation the last time Reagan, Gorbachev and their wives were together.

Several people said Regan's often scornful picture of what

goes on behind the gates at the White House too late in the Reagan presidency to do any real harm to his administration or to the United States.

Many foreign governments are biding their time until the next president takes office in January, they say.

The U.S. government is virtually crippled with indecision during an election year because no one knows what the future holds, Valentin Falin, the chairman of the Soviet Novosti Press agency, said in a recent interview.

But Helms disagreed.

"There is no reason why he

can't make foreign policy decisions," he said.

Put in context, Regan's book is not nearly as serious for U.S. foreign policy as, for instance, the Iran-contra affair, in which weapons were secretly sold to Iran and profits diverted to the Nicaraguan rebels, Brandon said.

Diplomats at several embassies declined to be quoted by name in talking about the Regan flap for fear of offending the United States. A few chuckled, but none considered the damage to the U.S. image to be too serious.

"George Shultz might joke about it on the golf course with Bob Hawke," said an Australian, referring to the secretary of state and the Australian prime minister, respectively. "It makes you look a bit silly," he said.

Herman Nickel, the former U.S. ambassador to South Africa in the Reagan administration, said books like Regan's are "not helpful in a general sense" to Americans trying to carry out U.S. policies abroad.

At the same time, he said foreigners understand that "people with a grudge tend to tell their stories."

While diplomats were cautious, foreign reporters had a heyday with the story.

"People abroad think this is just another giggle," said Elgy Gillespie, who writes for the Irish Times in Dublin. "It's just one more hilarious thing about the Regans, isn't it?"

Europeans have often mocked the Regans for their California tastes and their "glorified friends at the White House," she said. "What are we going to do for kids if kiss-and-tell books are ever banned?"

Politics sidelined in Punjab, Sikh alienation grows

By Robert Mahoney
Reuters

CHANDIGARH, India — Politicians in Punjab view the world through a different lens.

Fences and machine-gun emplacements surround the homes of political leaders in Chandigarh, state capital of the north Indian state of Punjab, symbolising their isolation from power as Sikh separatists fight for an independent homeland.

Politics have been squeezed out by the extremists and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, bringing Punjab down to straight battle between a few hundred gunmen and 70,000 police and paramilitary troops.

In the middle stand Punjab's 17 million Sikhs and Hindus becoming increasingly polarised as separatist killings rise daily and the police response toughens.

Thousands of Hindu families have fled their homes in separatist strongholds along the Pakistani border. Thousands of young Sikhs lie in jail for suspected "terrorist" links.

Members of Gandhi's Congress (I) Party from the state have asked him to declare an emergency in Punjab and send in the army.

Sikh leaders want him to dismiss the governor he appointed a year ago to rule the state for New

Delhi and hold elections.

The governor, Siddhartha Shankar Ray and his advisor, former police chief Julio Ribeiro, are identified by many leaders with harsh policing they say is alienating Punjab's eight million Sikhs.

Gandhi sacked the elected moderate Sikh Akali Dal government in May 1987 for what he called its failure to curb terrorism, one month before a crucial election in neighbouring Hindu-majority Haryana state. Since then the number of killings has soared, and Congress lost the election.

Parties irrelevant

"Political parties are slightly irrelevant in Punjab," Ray told Reuters. "The battle seems to be between a group of anti-national terrorists on one side and the people of Punjab on the other."

Akali Dal leaders believe Gandhi is not interested in a political solution and has not realised the implications of having engineered their downfall.

"There is now no political structure in the villages to cushion Sikhs from the police and administration and take up their grievances," said one village headman from Gurdaspur district, a separatist hotbed.

"Villagers see the boys (separ-

atists) as the only people standing up to the police and taking their side," he said.

Moderates believe few Sikhs support a separate state the extremists call Khalistan. But they sense a growing feeling of Sikh unity in the face of what many see as government repression and a tendency by Hindu opinion makers to lump moderate and militant Sikhs together.

"Sikhs are not in favour of a separate state," said Balwant Singh, number two in the dismissed Akali government. "But Sikhs realise that this government is not going to give them justice but is pushing them up against the wall," he told Reuters. "The centre (Delhi) has given the Sikhs an emotional unity."

Many Sikhs believe Congress is exploiting the Punjab conflict to woo vital Hindu votes in north India. Gandhi must call an election by the end of next year and faces seven important by-elections next month.

Some Sikhs think Gandhi is merely waiting for the right time to impose an emergency in the state to show Hindus he is dealing with terrorism.

He armed himself with the power to call an emergency by amending the constitution last month.

It allows for suspension of civil rights in Punjab and would per-

mit police to arrest or shoot dead a suspect without accountability to a court. Ray said the amendment was to plug loopholes and did not mean an emergency would be introduced.

The amendment caused uproar in Punjab where Sikhs see it as a measure against ordinary citizens.

"The police already have enough powers to deal with terrorism, so who is the emergency aimed at?" Balwant Singh asked.

Even some of Gandhi's own party members are critical.

"Many people feel the amendment which suspends the right to life is a gross violation of inalienable human rights," Gulbir Singh, former Punjab Congress president, said.

"People feel parliament is now subordinate to an executive which is ruling arbitrarily in collusion with a pliant judiciary," he said in an interview.

Sikhs complain loudly that all senior administrators under Governor Ray are non-Sikh or even anti-Sikh. But top of a long list of grievances is the alleged killing by police of Sikh detainees in "fake encounters" — staged escapes or ambushes.

"Police will kill a man in broad daylight," Balwant Singh said.

The accusations are most frequently aimed at Ribeiro who

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. studies Kuwaiti quest for F-18s

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government is seriously considering Kuwait's request to buy F-18 fighter-bombers and become the first Arab country to have the advanced aircraft, officials said Thursday. "No decision has been made, but there's a strong inclination to do it," said an official. One issue to be decided is how many planes Kuwait should be allowed to buy. The Kuwaitis have asked for 40. "There's interest, but a lot of discussion needs to go on before any decision like that would be considered," another source said. Congress has the power to reject the request, as it has in the past, when asked by President Ronald Reagan to sell particular sophisticated weapons systems to Arab states. The Washington Post, citing unidentified defence and state department sources, said Thursday that the request to Congress would be made soon. Kuwait interest in the F-18s was disclosed during congressional testimony earlier this week by Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs.

Syrian air, naval units complete exercises

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas has called on the air force and navy to work to improve their fighting skills, the official Syrian News Agency (SANA) said Thursday. SANA said Tlas praised commanders of various air and naval units which took part in manoeuvres ordered by President Hafez Al Assad, who is also general commander of the armed forces.

Israel TV crews demand danger money

TEL AVIV (R) — Camera crews at Israel Television are demanding danger money to go into the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, broadcasting sources said Thursday. The sources said the management offered several months ago a bonus of a weekend at a five-star hotel for each 15 days worked in the occupied territories but failed to keep the pledge.

Security tightened at U.S. embassy in Sanaa

SANAA (R) — Soldiers have replaced police guarding the U.S. embassy in North Yemen after a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at the mission, embassy sources said Thursday. They said troops with machineguns were posted around the embassy in the centre of Sanaa and at a new embassy complex being built on the outskirts of the city. The grenade Wednesday was fired from a nearby building into the ambassador's empty office, the sources said. No one was hurt and damage was confined to broken windows and masonry. The government has made no comment so far on the attack.

Poisonous spill kills Israeli driver

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli army helicopter rescued hundreds of civilians Thursday from the reach of poisonous fumes after a semitrailer carrying bromine overturned in southern Israel, killing the driver, police said. Police also closed a 115-kilometre stretch of road for 24 hours as clouds of orange smoke billowed above the spill, witnesses said. The area is about 100 kilometres south of Jerusalem on the road to Eilat. Nine Israelis were also treated at hospitals for burns and breathing difficulties, said a police spokesman. He said it was unclear what caused the early morning accident on a main highway just south of the Dead Sea.

Singer urges non-violent revolt

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — American folk-singer Joan Baez pleaded for non-violent struggle by Palestinians against Israeli occupation as she took the stage for a concert in Arah Jerusalem Thursday. Baez, who arrived Wednesday, sang an Arabic song, then asked Palestinian singers who performed earlier to join in singing "Freedom" and "Biko." The audience of 400 clapped and sang along with Baez as she stood behind a sign reading: "Palestinian self-determination is the path to peace."

U.S. indicates belief Israel behind Abu Jihad killing

TUNIS (Agencies) — U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead has said that it considered the assassination of a senior Palestinian leader in Tunis a reprehensible action on the part of Israel.

It was the first intimation that the United States blamed Israel for last month's killing of Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad), the Palestine Liberation Organisation's deputy military commander.

Whitehead told a news conference Thursday he had made Washington's views on the killing quite clear in talks with Tunisian leaders.

"We confirmed... that the United States very much regretted this incident and found it a reprehensible action on the part of Israel and that we had absolutely no knowledge of the incident or participation in it," he said.

Pressed to confirm that the United States was now openly accusing Israel of the attack, he said:

"Well, of course, none of us know for sure, do we? And we don't know for sure. But we haven't heard denials, so we can only assume."

Israel is "widely assumed" to

have carried out the machine-gun attack on Abu Jihad but the United States has refrained from openly accusing its Middle East ally.

Whitehead added that, in talks with President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali and others, he also discussed a Tunisian-sponsored United Nations Security Council vote last month on the killing, in which the United States abstained.

The resolution, otherwise passed unanimously by the 15-member council, did not expressly accuse Israel of carrying out the attack, but condemned aggression against Tunisia.

Whitehead said that peace in the Middle East was imperative and a settlement should achieve the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and assure the security of all states in the region.

Whitehead, who arrived in Tunisia Wednesday from Algeria, said he also discussed this month's U.S.-Soviet summit in Moscow and the Iran-Iraq war with Tunisian leaders.

He will also visit Morocco during his tour of North Africa.

Algerian role in hostage issue

Whitehead first visited Algeria

to discuss the situation of American hostages in Lebanon.

Before leaving Washington, Whitehead said he wanted to find out if Algeria was privy to information about the nine American hostages held by pro-Iranians, and whether Algeria could play a role in obtaining their freedom.

Algeria has a long history of successful mediation, particularly in hostage situations, and it is thought Algeria may have played a role in the release of the last three French hostages in Lebanon last week.

No information on the subject filtered from Whitehead's talks in Algeria at the time. However, the Saudi newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat Thursday quoted unnamed Algerian official sources

as saying that Algeria was ready to mediate for the release of the American hostages if the United States made an official request.

The same sources told the paper that the Algerian government had "gained experience in this connection," listing successful mediations such as the release of American hostages in Tehran and the recent freeing of hostages from the hijacked Kuwaiti Airways jetliner.

Whitehead said Thursday that, after his talks in Algeria, he still did not know the whereabouts of the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner, who were allowed to go free after Algerian officials negotiated the release of hostages held at Algiers airport.

Exiled ayatollah says Iran favours release of hostages

LONDON (R) — Iran wants to normalise relations with the West and thinks Western hostages held in Lebanon should be released, according to a senior exiled Iranian cleric.

"Iran is now disposed to find a solution. This will be the last hostage crisis," Ayatollah Mehdi Rouhani, a relative of four of Iran's grand ayatollahs, told the Independent newspaper.

Rouhani, self-proclaimed spiritual head of the Shi'ite community in Europe, has spent the past 25 years in France. He split with Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, after the 1979 revolution over the issue of the clergy's involvement in politics.

"Most people around Khomeini, even the extremists, are now in favour of releasing the hostages," he was quoted as telling the paper during an interview in London.

Rouhani, who has regular contacts with representatives of the Iranian clergy, said Iranian setbacks in the Gulf war and Tehran's continuing international

isolation had convinced even the hardliners of the need to normalise relations with the West. He said the first step was the secret deal with France, under which the three remaining French hostages in Lebanon were released this month.

Rouhani said he had advised the British government to be patient over the hostage issue but to show a sign of goodwill towards the people of Iran.

He said he had sent envoys to Lebanon to talk to all sides and try to negotiate the release of the 17 remaining Western hostages.

Last month the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God), believed to hold most of the hostages, asked France to expel Rouhani in exchange for the release of the French captives. France rejected the demand.

The Independent said Rouhani then offered himself in exchange for the release of all the Western hostages, but the kidnappers turned him down, "possibly deciding that the exiled cleric... would gain too much prestige."

Socialist International renews support for Palestinians

Methodist church assails Israel, urges end to U.S. aid

NEW YORK (AP) — In the months of the Palestinian uprising, various American church organisations have criticised Israel as moving too harshly against Palestinian protesters. Last week such criticism got tougher.

In one of the severest condemnations yet of Israeli conduct, the United Methodist Church said, "Israel's current iron-fist policy... is totally unacceptable as civilised behaviour."

The blast from this church of nearly 10 million Americans, second-largest in U.S. Protestantism next to southern Baptists, came in a late-night finale of its governing conference and got scant news attention.

Yet it marked a heightened level of U.S. church reproach against Israel, putting added strains on Jewish-Christian relationships in this country.

Rabbi James Rudin, inter-religious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, contended that the statement was a one-sided expression of "selective outrage" against Israel.

"Overall it's an unbalanced statement," he contended, and the "harshness emanated from the church world toward Israel."

However, it was approved by

it impetus for fresh approaches, urging Arab recognition of Israel and a plebiscite among Palestinians on their desires.

However, the church delegates, half laity and half clergy from around the country, asked the U.S. government to press international efforts and open negotiations with the PLO to settle the region's problems.

Socialists condemn violence

The Socialist International council ended its two-day meeting in Madrid Thursday with a condemnation of Israeli violence in the occupied territories and attacks by Palestinians and other groups against Israeli targets.

During a debate that took much longer than expected because of disagreement over wording, the council also reaffirmed support for an international conference to achieve peace in the Middle East.

"We strongly condemn violence committed by Israeli armed forces in the occupied territories," the resolution on the Middle East said. "At the same time we strongly condemn terrorist attacks by Palestinians or

other organisations against Israeli civilian targets, which also worsen the crisis."

The council expressed its "deep concern" at the deteriorating situation in the region, in reference to the five-month uprising in the West Bank and Gaza. Among participants in the Middle East debate were Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, representing his Israel Labour Party, and Palestinian journalist Hanna Simora, who praised a tough speech Wednesday by former Italian Prime Minister and Socialist leader Bettino Craxi, as reflecting "the spirit of parties at the meeting."

The resolution fell short of calling on Israel to recognise the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people in any peace talks.

"We hope at the next SI meeting that there will be full recognition of the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," Simora said.

The resolution also called on Israeli occupation authorities to open schools in the West Bank immediately and for international humanitarian and economic aid for the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Arabs offer full cooperation against air piracy

RABAT (R) — The Arab Civil Aviation Council (ACAC) said Thursday that Arab states were prepared to discuss with world organisations ways to fight air piracy and terrorism, including the use of an international force.

The council, an Arab League affiliate, conferred on the hijacking of a Kuwaiti Boeing 747 jet and Israel's reported use of a civilian plane as an airborne command post in the killing of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) deputy military commander Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad) in Tunis last month.

After a two-day meeting of the Rabat-based council, its Secretary-General Hussein Hayawi Hammash told a news conference:

"Our meeting was intended to tell the world that we will do everything to cooperate in any way to fight hijacking and terrorism."

"The Arab region intends to use all possible means and is willing to discuss with the international community such means, including the creation of an international force..." Hammash said.

It also praised Kuwait for refusing to give in to hijackers who threatened to kill the passengers unless 17 Arab militants jailed for

bomb attacks on American and French missions in Kuwait in 1983 were freed.

ILO condemns Israel

GENEVA (R) — The International Labour Organisation (ILO) held Thursday for the abolition of job discrimination against Arabs in the Israeli-occupied territories.

In a report prepared for its annual meeting, opening June 1, the 150-nation labour body said: "Active and determined measures ought to be taken to avoid in practice any kind of discrimination in the area of employment or occupation."

The report said there were inequalities of opportunity and treatment in fields such as vocational training, social security and the system of work permits for job security.

Israel should encourage the exercise of legitimate trade union activities "free of any interference by the civil and military authorities," it added.

ILO Director General Francis Blanchard, who visited Israel in March to discuss the situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, said in the report's preface:

"The clashes which have occurred as a result of the uprising and the repressive and other measures which have ensued gravely affect the situation of the Arab workers in those territories."

Blanchard added: "Tireless efforts must be made to seek a political solution."

Uno to urge Israel to leave occupied lands

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's foreign minister is expected to urge Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories when he visits Israel next month as the highest Japanese official ever to visit that country, Foreign Ministry officials said Friday.

Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno is scheduled to visit Israel as part of his six-day, four-state Middle East tour beginning June 22 that will also take him to Jordan, Syria and Egypt, a ministry official said.

Details of Uno's itinerary were under discussion with each of the countries, said the official.

On Thursday, Uno told Japanese reporters that his major

purpose in visiting the four states "is to have frank exchange of views towards the progress of peace with the leaders of those countries who are directly involved in the Middle East issue."

Uno will be the first Japanese cabinet member to visit Israel. The two countries established diplomatic relations in 1952.

Yasuaki Uno, an official in the first Middle East division in the Foreign Ministry, said Uno would urge Israeli "withdrawal from its occupied territories in an effort to further promote progress" towards peace in the Middle East.

During a scheduled one-day stay in Israel, Uno also plans to visit either the occupied West Bank or Gaza, the official said.

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Iraq to set up new commercial bank

BAGHDAD (AP) — The government is setting up a new commercial bank to keep abreast with the nation's expanding economic activity, Finance Minister Hikmat Omar Mukhalil said Thursday.

The new bank, to be called Al Rashid Commercial Bank, will have a capital of 100 million Iraqi dinars (\$500,000) and be headquartered in Baghdad with 100 branches throughout the country, Mukhalil told the official Iraqi News Agency.

The Al Rashid Bank, scheduled to start full operation later this year, will be the second commercial bank in Iraq and the first to be opened since the

nationalisation of commercial banks in 1966.

The existing commercial bank, Al Rafidain, reported a profit of 348 million dinars (\$1.74 billion) from its operations and other financial facilities last year.

A July 25, 1987 statement also said the bank doubled its total deposits to more than 12 billion dinars (\$60 billion) in the preceding seven years.

Mukhalil said, however, that the net profits of the Rafidain Bank and its current operations "do not show an efficient performance."

He said he hoped the new bank will offer more opportunities for Iraqi businessmen and expand market activities.

He added that the government was planning to set up more commercial banks. He did not elaborate.

The new bank, which will compete with the existing Rafidain Bank, falls within Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's policy of revitalising the country's war-weary, oil-based economy through liberalisation measures.

Iraq is ruled by the Arab Baath

Socialist Party with a state-controlled economy that allows a small degree of private enterprise.

Much of the country's foreign currency reserves from crude oil production, currently estimated to run at 2.4 million barrels a day, has been eaten up by a 7½-year-old war with Iran.

Last year, the government launched an economic recovery programme which called for the sale of some unprofitable government-run enterprises, and lucrative incentives also gave the limited private sector more say in the national economy and allowed private businesses to invest more in the various sectors of the economy.

Ramadan open markets show popularity, success

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ramadan open markets, set up by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), are expected to make a net profit of JD 30,000 this year, according to GUVS President Abdullah Al Khatib.

Khatib, in a statement to Al Dustour Arabic newspaper, said that the proceeds of these markets normally finance the education of needy students at schools and universities.

GUVS had started off with one market which proved successful before opening the two others, Khatib noted.

He said that the three markets, located at Jabal Hussein, Mahatta and Jahal Nazzal, bring in financial returns that finance the education of 400 university students and 600 secondary school students.

At least 310 merchants are offering their products to the

public in the three markets and estimates this year indicate that no less than 10,000 people have visited these markets every evening to purchase consumer products, clothes and other items at competitive prices, Khatib said.

Khatib paid tribute to the Water Authority of Jordan, the Telecommunications Corporation, the Amman Municipality and other organisations which had offered help to GUVS to make its projects successful.

He said that GUVS intends to spread the idea of Ramadan open markets to other parts of the country in the coming year.

Last year, the open markets brought in a net profit of JD 13,000 which augmented the GUVS's funds that finance humanitarian schemes. Since the beginning of 1988 GUVS has spent JD 350,000 on different humanitarian projects.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.8896/8905	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2310/20	Canadian dollar
	1.6805/10	Deutsche marks
	1.8845/55	Dutch guilders
	1.3970/80	Swiss francs
	35.12/17	Belgian francs
	5.7025/55	French francs
	1250/1252	Italian lire
	124.55/65	Japanese yen
	5.8700/50	Swedish crowns
	6.1375/1425	Norwegian crowns
	6.4500/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	450.75/451.15	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The share market closed higher fuelled by modest buying from both local and offshore investors. The All Ordinaries index rose 14.2 points to 1,403.2.

TOKYO — Share prices closed sharply higher in active trade as aggressive Japanese buying of U.S. bonds bolstered confidence and fears of a rise in domestic interest rates vanished. The Nikkei index rose 255.73, 0.9 per cent, to 27,468.31.

HONG KONG — Shares closed firmer in quiet and lacklustre trading in light bargain-hunting. The Hang Seng index rose 23.75 to 2,532.63.

SINGAPORE — Share prices rebounded to close generally higher on selective buying and bargain hunting after four consecutive days of declines. The Straits Times industrial index rose 5.68 points to 970.18.

BOMBAY — Widespread profit-taking ahead of the weekend cut short a rally. Brokers said the market opened firm on strong speculative support but ran out of steam in mid-session.

FRANKFURT — Prices ended a moderate bourse higher across the board, boosted by short-covering, by sharp gains in Tokyo and by a technical reaction to the sell-off at the start of the week. Commerzbank's 60-share index, calculated at the mid-session fix, rose 15.3 points or 1.2 per cent to 1,302.2.

ZURICH — The market closed slightly lower on moderate volume. The All Share Swiss index was down 4.2 to 790.6 points.

PARIS — Prices ended off their lows, pulled up by a late flurry of largely foreign buying on blue chip stocks, sparked by Wall Street's firmer opening. The 50-share bourse indicator ended 0.42 per cent down after opening 1.2 per cent lower.

LONDON — A gain of just over 20 points on the Dow Jones industrial average lifted the London market to new highs on the day in late trading. At 1440 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was ten points up at a high of 1,782.3.

NEW YORK — Stocks continued to gain and were at session highs on a combination of factors. A successful bond sale showed foreign interest in U.S. securities and a moderate rise in producer prices cooled inflation fears. The Dow 30 was up 22 at 1990.

U.S. retail sales decline

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. retail sales declined in April after an unexpectedly sharp gain in March, the government said Thursday in an inconclusive report that offered little new information about the health of the economy.

Sales fell a seasonally adjusted 0.6 per cent in April, but only after March sales were revised up to a 1.7 per cent gain instead of the previously reported 0.8 per cent rise, the Commerce Department said.

Although April sales, which totalled \$131.58 billion, were lower than the revised March level of \$132.40 billion, they were actually 0.7 per cent higher than the originally reported \$130.66 billion in March sales.

The department said the March revision was the result of new information about the strength of Easter sales and distortions in its seasonal adjustment process because Easter, which was on April 3, came earlier than usual this year.

"It's weaker this month because a lot of spending took place in March for Easter," said economist Tom Megan of Evans Economics in Washington. "The declines were all in areas where there were sharp upward revisions to March."

The retail sales report is the first economic indicator to be issued since last Friday and was expected to give financial markets a fresh indication about the strength of the economy.

But it had little market impact and was too inconclusive to give much of a hint of whether the economy is slowing down or "overheating," which could prompt the Federal Reserve (Fed) to tighten credit to hold inflation down, economists said.

"I don't think this report really answers that question because of the upward revision in March," said economist Kathryn Kobe of Joel Popkin and Co. in Washington.

"We should not make too much of the April retail sales report, which showed a decline of 0.6 per cent," said Richard Rahn, chief economist of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

"It was strongly influenced by the impact of Easter this year and thus does not reflect the actual situation," he said.

The Fed, alarmed by signs of rising inflation, has already nudged up interest rates in the money markets in recent days, prompting U.S. commercial banks to raise their prime lending rates Wednesday by half a point to nine per cent.

Excluding the volatile category of autos, April retail sales were down 0.5 per cent after rising 1.8 per cent in March.

Over the past several months, non-auto sales have risen at an average 0.5 per cent per month, which is barely more than the rate of inflation, economists said.

"That means that in real terms that sales outside of autos are flatish," Megan said.

"Part of the March increase came from price rather than quantity," added Kobe, noting that the consumer price index for that month rose 0.5 per cent.

Economists said they expect continued moderate growth in retail sales, although price increases could make it seem greater than it actually is.

The overall decline in April, which was fairly broad-based, was the first since October, but sales were still 5.4 per cent higher than they were in April 1987.

Sales of all durable goods last month fell \$315 million, or 0.6 per cent, to \$50.26 billion, while sales of non-durable goods also fell 0.6 per cent, or \$500 million, to \$51.33 billion, the department said.

Sales of clothing rose 0.7 per cent, but department store sales fell 0.6 per cent.

Americans apparently lost their appetite last month, according to the Commerce Department. Not only were food store sales down 0.3 per cent, but sales at eating and drinking places fell 1.6 per cent.

Oman narrows budget deficit by 28%

MUSCAT (AP) — The oil-producing state of Oman has narrowed its budget deficit for 1987 to 28 per cent below what had been forecast, according to figures released here Thursday.

The state-run Oman Development Bank (ODB), in its annual report, gave the budget deficit figure for the outgoing year as 170 million riyals (\$440 million). The deficit had been projected at 248 million riyals (\$640 million), with a difference of 78 million riyals (\$200 million).

Oman, like other countries whose major revenues are derived from oil exports, has been

suffering from budget deficits since the early 1980s when world oil market prices weakened.

Oman is not a member of the 13-nation oil group, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), but it has reduced its daily output to help OPEC stabilise the oil market. It also commits itself to the OPEC-decreed benchmark price.

The worst budget deficit suffered by the sultanate was in 1986 at 742 million riyals (\$1.915 billion), and the figure for 1987 meant the government succeeded in narrowing the deficit by 77 per cent.

"Compared to other oil-exporting nations who faced the collapse in oil prices two years ago, it is incredible," ODB Manager Mohammad Othman told the Associated Press.

Basic government steps to remedy the situation in wake of the slump included heavy cutbacks in government spending as well as reductions in number of foreign workers by more than 100,000, or a third of the force.

"The government acted fast in 1986 when gross domestic product dropped by 19 per cent and the economy underwent quite a jolt. There were stringent budget

cuts," Othman said in an interview. "The philosophy was simple: My revenue is this, therefore I can only spend this."

Bank Chairman Mohammad Yousef, in his annual report, said Oman had survived "the most difficult period." He stressed the need for the government to control expenditure and broaden the base of the economy away from oil.

Economists anticipate a gradual revival of the economy with an average 2.5 per cent annual growth over the remainder of the revised three-five-year plan due to be completed in 1990.

Third World stresses need to overcome debt crisis

PORT LOUIS, Mauritius (R) — West European donors convinced Third World nations at ministerial talks last week that there was no quick cure for their debt crisis.

The debt crisis of countries already struggling to cope with mass poverty and hunger dominated the annual ministerial talks between the 12-nation European Community (EC) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of 66 states.

"It would not be very pragmatic on our part to hope that in just one session here in Mauritius we would find the panacea," ACP President Almoustapha Soumaila said afterwards.

But Soumaila, Niger's planning minister, stressed comprehensive and durable solutions were needed urgently.

Soumaila indicated that rescheduling and forgiveness of debt to ease the burden of borrowers may not be enough, adding that Third World nations also needed funds to finance development.

The two sides met under the Lome convention, the chief pillar of the EC's Third World development policy.

The two-day meeting, both sides agreed, set the tone for the start of negotiations in Luxembourg next Oct. 5-6 on a pact to succeed the five-year aid and trade accord ending in 1990.

The EC Commission, in proposed guidelines on a new agreement released here, signalled a need for a quicker, and more

flexible response to Third World needs, while indebted countries should continue with painful economic reforms.

"At the very start of the negotiations... the Community should indicate its willingness to provide broader-based, more flexible and faster support under the new convention in order to satisfy short-term needs and help in the implementation of reform policies," it said.

U.S. businessmen see further slide of dollar

HOT SPRINGS, Virginia (R) — Leading businessmen predicted a drop in the U.S. trade deficit this year by more than \$20 billion but added in a report Friday that this would not suffice to stop a further fall in the dollar.

The Business Council, of 100 chief executives of leading U.S. corporations, forecast in a report on the economy that the 1988 trade deficit would be less than \$150 billion, against \$171 billion in 1987.

But it saw the dollar dropping from 125 yen now to 119 by the end of 1988 and 115 by the end of 1989.

Many businessmen found that current exchange rates made their products competitive abroad. But "the improvement in the U.S. trade accounts will not be sufficiently large and convincing to prevent a further slide in the dollar."

The council thought that —

"unless the economy showed other clear signs of overheating" — U.S. authorities would let the dollar slip rather than resort to sharply higher interest rates to attract money to dollar assets and prop it up.

That, economists say, could risk recession.

Even though a yet weaker dollar may crimp exporters' earnings in other nations, the council raised its prediction of expansion in leading industrial economies other than the United States over the next two years by about one-half per cent from its last report in February.

The businessmen put European growth at between two and three per cent in both 1988 and 1989.

In an overall view of the U.S. economy, John Reed, chairman of Citicorp, told a news conference that committee members "are feeling rather good about the economy in its present state."

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S. Africa, Angola agree to support international role in peace talks

BRAZZAVILLE (Agencies) — South African and Angolan ministers held brief peace talks in Brazzaville Friday and agreed that international efforts to end the 13-year-old Angolan war should be resumed in the Congolese capital soon.

We are under no illusions as to the complexity of the matters we address," South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha told reporters after a three-and-a-half hour meeting with Angolan Justice Minister Fernando van Dunem. "There is a willingness on the part of the two governments to address the issues," Botha added. Botha, speaking in the garden of the quiet suburban villa where the talks were held, said Angola and South Africa had agreed that four-party peace talks on the inter-linked Angolan and Namibian issues should be resumed soon in the capital of Congo.

"May I express the hope that what we have started will one day be rewarded with peace, stability and prosperity for the whole of southern Africa," Botha added. The statement by the foreign minister, who was making a rare visit to a black African capital, was warm and upbeat in tone. The Angolan chief negotiator was more circumspect in his brief comments.

"We found out today what we all wanted. We clarified our posi-

tions," Van Dunem said.

The date of the next meeting of the four-party negotiations involving Cuba and the United States, as well as South Africa and Angola is not known.

But South African officials had said it would be a matter of weeks rather than months.

Botha said that following the Brazzaville talks, which were shorter than expected, both delegations would be reporting back to their governments.

The South African minister said earlier it was the task of "we Africans" to resolve the Angolan conflict.

Congo Foreign Minister Antoine Ndinga-Oba, whose socialist leadership has close ties with Angola's government, said: "President Denis Sassou Nguesso and his people are happy to welcome you here in the Congo. It is our duty to serve the cause of peace... and to save lives."

The Congo government had kept silent on the talks even after the arrival of the two delegations Thursday.

Noriega remains firm in control amid reports of possible U.S. deal

PANAMA CITY (Agencies) — Military strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega seems firmly in control in Panama after Washington admitted it would have to make concessions if it wanted him to resign.

"I don't see any signs that Noriega is thinking of leaving any time soon," Planning Minister Gustavo Gonzalez said Thursday. "U.S. propaganda has made it look like Noriega is about to go at any moment."

Officials said that a special envoy sent by President Reagan was in Panama but had not formally made a U.S. offer to drop drug indictments against Noriega in return for his resignation.

Rumors that the leader of the largest pro-military party, said there had only been preliminary talks with the envoy.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Michael Kozak. No agreements had been reached.

General Noriega has laid down vague but wide-ranging demands for any deal with Washington, saying: "There can be no settlement if North American aggression and violations of Panamanian sovereignty continue."

The White House said Thursday it would have to make concessions to get Noriega out and spokesman Martin Fitzwater likened the negotiations to courtroom plea-bargains. Noriega has defied almost a year of domestic and U.S. pressures for his resignation.

U.S. administration sources say Washington is willing to drop indictments in Florida on drug smuggling and racketeering charges if Noriega resigns and

leaves the country until after general elections in May 1989.

But Bethancourt, head of the Revolutionary Democratic Party, dismissed the issue of the drug indictments as a "political farce" with no legal basis.

"We do not consider that an injustice of an invention which should shame U.S. courts should be reason for a transaction," he told reporters. He said he had been holding meetings with Kozak but that Kozak had not met Noriega this week. Kozak has visited several times since March.

The Panamanian government said it was closing its U.S. consulates due to what it called a campaign of bribery, harassment and hostility by the U.S. State Department against consular officials.

Armenians stage new protests

MOSCOW (R) — New demonstrations have hit the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, at the centre of recent unrest between Armenians and Azerbaijanis, officials in the region said Friday.

A spokesman at the Communist Party daily Sovetskiy Karabakh told Reuters by telephone a crowd of demonstrators had formed Thursday in the regional capital, Stepanakert, to protest at the appointment of an Azerbaijani national as deputy prosecutor.

"I can't say how many people there were — but there were forms part of Soviet Azerbaijan. The February protests sparked huge demonstrations of support in Yerevan, capital of Soviet Armenia.

Counter-demonstrations broke out in Baku, capital of Azerbaijan.

quite a lot," he said.

The spokesman said the demonstrators later dispersed. An official at the local Communist Party headquarters said the city, which has a largely Armenian population of 33,000, was quiet Friday. "People are going about their normal business," he added.

Stepanakert was the scene of mass demonstrations in February by Armenians protesting over what they called negligence of the region by Azerbaijani officials. Nagorno-Karabakh, which has a population of about 175,000 of whom 75 per cent are Armenians,

jan, and mobs in Sumgait, the republic's second city, went on a rampage, killing 26 Armenians.

Soviet troops were sent to Sumgait to restore order. Others were dispatched to Yerevan and Stepanakert to prevent further demonstrations while the Kremlin announced a new development programme for Nagorno-Karabakh.

On May 11, the trial opened in Sumgait of one Azerbaijani accused of taking part in the killings there. Officials say more than 80 people have been arrested by a special team of investigators sent from Moscow.

Japanese minister resigns after controversial world war remarks

TOKYO (AP) — A cabinet minister who said Japan was not an aggressor in World War II resigned his post Friday, a news report said.

Seisuke Okuno, Director General of the National Land Agency, submitted his resignation to Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita late Friday afternoon, three weeks after his remark that Japan was not an aggressor in World War II drew condemnation from China, South Korea and North Korea, the Japan Broadcast Corporation reported.

The veteran politician is widely regarded as number three man in government after Takeshita and Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

Earlier Friday, Okuno apologized to Japanese officials for the furor caused by his comments but continued to stand by them.

"I may withdraw my remarks if

they disrupt the Diet (parliament), but what I said was not wrong," he told a group of parliamentarians.

To reporters, he said, "my comments have incurred criticism outside Japan and aroused friction in the Diet (parliament). As a result, the Diet... and other concerned bodies have suffered."

"From the bottom of my heart, I am sorry."

The report of his resignation followed press reports that Takeshita wanted Okuno to step down voluntarily. Kyodo news service said Takeshita met with the 75-year-old minister Friday and brought up the option.

Takeshita had avoided disputing Okuno's remarks or taking any action against him since he said April 22 that Japan had no aggressive intent in World War II. Okuno said Japan "fought to protect itself at a time when the white race had turned Asia into a colony."

Toy gun, fake explosives used in Chinese hijack

TAIPEI (Agencies) — Two Chinese who hijacked a Chinese jetliner to Taiwan said they used a toy pistol and a bottle of fake explosives to commandeer the aircraft and were ready to kill themselves if they failed.

The civil aviation administration of China Airline Boeing 737 with 118 people aboard was hijacked Thursday evening on a domestic flight from Xiamen to Guangzhou, also known as Canton.

Chang Ching-Kun, 27, one of the hijackers, told Taiwan's official Chinese television service that he and his companion, Lung Kuei-Yun, 26, also had knives in their pockets, unknown to the pilot.

"We would have committed suicide if we failed," Chang said in the televised interview. "We never planned to return (to China)."

The plane landed at Ching-chuan air force base in central Taiwan at 9:07 a.m. Thursday

(1307 GMT) and was flown back to Xiamen with the other 116 persons aboard at 2:55 a.m. Friday (1855 GMT Thursday) after the hijackers were granted political asylum in Taiwan.

China Friday thanked Taiwan for allowing the airliner to return. Government officials Friday distributed a statement they said was written by the plane's pilot, Yang Yung-Ling, before he left for Xiamen.

Yang said the two entered the pilot's cabin, brandished "unspecified arms" and demanded the plane be diverted to Taiwan.

He said he tried to fly to Hong Kong but the two objected and he then flew to Taiwan.

Chinese MIG fighters tried to intercept the plane to prevent it flying to the nationalist-ruled island, Taiwan Television said.

It said Taiwan jets scrambled to meet the plane as it flew over Taiwan's Penghu islands (the Pescadores) and escorted it to the air-force base.

Reagan endorses Bush again; Tutu lauds Dukakis

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has endorsed Vice-President George Bush a second time while Democrat Michael Dukakis has received a near endorsement from South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Stung by suggestions that he seemed lukewarm towards Bush, Reagan said Thursday he was "enthusiastic" about the vice-president and offered his second endorsement in two days.

"I was surprised by the news reports that have said my endorsement last evening if the vice-president was 'lukewarm,'" Reagan said in a statement.

"I am enthusiastic, fully committed and, as I have said, will go all out to make Vice-President Bush the next president of the United States."

Earlier, the White House said Reagan was "mortified" that his endorsement of Bush seemed to fall short of expectations.

In a Wednesday night speech endorsing Bush, Reagan mentioned his loyal lieutenant only briefly. At one point, he mispronounced Bush's name.

Bush insisted he was delighted

with Reagan's words.

"I couldn't be more pleased," Bush said of the initial endorsement. "I think it was a great send-off."

Massachusetts Governor Dukakis, almost certain to be the Democratic candidate in the Nov. 8 general election, received the near-endorsement of anti-apartheid campaigner Tutu after a meeting here.

"I don't think we need to give any endorsements but I know we would be amongst friends," Tutu, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, said with a beaming Dukakis at his side.

"We would have a very, very powerful friend if we had a Democrat occupying the White House," Tutu told reporters after meeting with the Democratic presidential candidate.

Earlier in the week, Tutu blasted Reagan's South African policy and said that Reagan was among apartheid's "most effective and most powerful allies."

The White House rejected Tutu's stinging criticism and said political pressure, not sanctions, was the best way to promote change.

Indian police maintain siege of Sikh militants

AMRITSAR (AP) — At least one Sikh extremist died Friday when a small band of the militants in the Golden Temple tried to shoot their way out of the police cordon around the shrine, an official said.

Punjab state police chief K.P.S. Gill said the siege by about 2,500 police and paramilitary troops around Sikhism's holiest shrine entered its fifth day with an estimated 100 Sikh radicals still inside the complex.

Police Thursday lifted the curfew in the old, walled city except in the immediate vicinity of the shrine.

Gill told a news conference that six Sikh militants firing AK-47 rifles attempted to storm out of the Golden Temple complex shortly after midnight (1830 GMT Thursday).

Security forces, whose weapons apparently were equip-

ped with night-vision scopes, returned fire and killed one of the Sikhs. Two escaped into the city and three retreated into the temple complex, Gill said. He said that one of the escapees was believed injured.

Gill said two paramilitary soldiers with the central reserve police force were injured in the shootout.

The bodies of five militants also could be seen at daybreak lying inside the complex, the apparent victims of overnight exchanges with security forces, Gill said.

The latest death raised to at least 22 the number of people killed since the confrontation began Monday.

Five of the victims were civilians or temple workers caught in the cross-fire, and the rest are believed to have been Sikh radicals.

India, Pakistan resume talks on ties next week

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan and India will resume talks on normalising relations next week after a two-year gap and only days after the start of a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Pakistani Minister of State for Defence Rana Naazam Mahmud told reporters Thursday Indian Defence Secretary S.K. Bhambagar would have two days of talks May 19 and 20 with his opposite number Jilal Haidar Zaidi.

An Indian embassy official said the talks would focus on the Siachen Glacier, a disputed area in the Karakoram Mountains just south of the Chinese border and in the north of Kashmir.

Since 1984 troops from both sides have played a dangerous game of cat and mouse along the 6,000-metre high ridges of the

Glacier. Mahmud said clashes there were routine.

Western diplomatic sources said the talks were significant, reopening just before Moscow, an old friend of New Delhi, starts to withdraw from May 15 under a four-nation accord, including Pakistan, Afghanistan, the United States and the Soviet Union.

Although remote, the disputed Siachen Glacier is one of the strategic points in a region where the borders of the Soviet Union, China, Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan converge.

Historically, the area has always been a meeting place of cultures and commands one of the main East-West routes along the Karakoram Highway, now running from Pakistan into China.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

9 killed in New Zealand plane crash

WELLINGTON (R) — Nine people were killed when a small plane crashed in New Zealand's north island. Rescue workers found the wreckage of the twin-engine Piper Seneca and the bodies Friday morning after an overnight search of rugged country near the city of Wanganui. Three children were among the dead. The plane disappeared off radar screens late Thursday while approaching Wanganui in poor weather.

India releases French planes

NEW DELHI (AP) — Three French planes took off for France a week after Indian fighter jets forced them to land when one of the planes strayed near the Jodhpur air force base, a French embassy spokesman said Friday. The planes resumed their journey Thursday after receiving clearance from the Indian government, the spokesman said. Uni Air of Toulouse, France, recently purchased the Fairchild planes from Air Tahiti. French pilots were flying them from the Pacific island to Toulouse when the aircraft were intercepted over western India May 5. Indian airforce interceptors escorted the planes to Ahmadabad, where the eight crew members spent the first night aboard the aircraft, before being taken to a hotel. Several Indian security agencies then conducted an investigation before the planes were allowed to leave.

George Rose murdered by adopted son

SANTO DOMINGO (R) — The adopted son of actor George Rose confessed Thursday that he and three relatives beat to death the 68-year-old star of a murder mystery because he was having an affair with a 14-year-old boy. Domingo Antonio Rafie Vasquez, 18, told a news conference that he had planned the British-born actor's murder because he was jealous about the affair. Vasquez said he then staged a phony car accident to cover up the murder, which police called a crime of passion. Police said Vasquez, his natural father, Juan Antonio Vasquez, and relatives Maximo Padilla and Luis Manuel Toribio beat Rose to death with clubs early last Thursday. Toribio is still a fugitive. Vasquez corroborated the version at the news conference. Rose's body was found May 5 on a highway outside the northern Dominican resort of Puerto Plata, where he owned a vacation home.

Keeping a cool head

LONDON (R) — Modern man's ancestors began walking upright to keep a cool head and not to free their hands, according to a researcher writing in a British magazine. Dr. Peter Wheeler, lecturer in vertebrate psychology and evolution at Liverpool Polytechnic, wrote in the weekly New Scientist that early man faced sunshine and warmer temperatures as he moved from shaded forests to more open country. "Primates were not physically equipped to cool themselves by panting and their large and delicate brains could be harmed by an increase of only one or two degrees centigrade," he said. "Walking upright is the ideal way of staying cool while moving across the open equatorial landscape," Wheeler wrote. "When the sun is overhead and at its most intense, an upright animal exposes less of its body surface to the sun's rays." Walking upright is regarded as an important step in man's evolution, freeing his hands to make tools and hunt.

Tiny car thief gives police high-speed chase

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A child who could barely see over the dashboard outraced police in a 150-kilometre-an-hour car chase before crashing his stolen vehicle and slipping away. "He was so small it looked like a headless person was driving," a South African police spokesman said Friday. Police gave chase Wednesday after spotting the Ford Granada speeding towards the Soweto black township near Johannesburg, but a patrol car could not keep up and had to ask a helicopter for help. Police said the thief, who was between seven and nine years old, had sat on a pipe of jacks so he could see out of the windscreen.

Kuwaiti pays record price for pearl

GENEVA (R) — A Kuwaiti financier Thursday paid the highest price ever fetched by a pearl at auction and said he planned to give it to his sister as a birthday present. "She likes pearls and she wanted this one," 25-year-old Safa Abdullah said after paying 1.21 million Swiss francs (\$865,000) for the egg-shaped pearl, known as "La Regeente." He said his sister Khlood would celebrate her 30th birthday Friday. The pearl was once part of the French crown jewels. It was bought in 1887 by a Russian family and its whereabouts had been unknown until now. Auctioneers Christie's said it fetched nearly twice as much as the previous record for a single pearl — 682,000 francs (\$487,000) for "La Pelegrina" sold at auction a year ago.

Teenagers boil human heads in Moscow suburb

MOSCOW (R) — Police arrested five teenagers they caught boiling three human heads over a bonfire in Moscow's southern outskirts, the newspaper Moskovskaya Pravda said Thursday. Police, investigating a report of a break-in at a mortuary, noticed a bonfire blazing on nearby wasteland. "Approaching closer, they saw five youths, using sticks to stir three human heads boiling in a saucepan," the daily said. "It was like a scene from a film about a wild cannibal tribe." "In our work, you get to see quite a lot... but this made even my flesh creep," a senior inspector was quoted as saying. The daily said the teenagers, who were drunk, explained that they were boiling the heads to make ashtrays out of the skulls.

Tyson gives bad luck Rolls Royce away

NEW YORK (R) — World heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson, convinced that his \$30,000 Rolls Royce was bringing him bad luck, gave it to two police officers following a minor traffic accident, according to a newspaper report Thursday. The New York Post said Tyson drove the Rolls into a parked car while having an argument with his wife, actress Robin Givens, Sunday. The police officers, who were passing by, asked if they could be of any help. And Tyson replied: "I've had nothing but bad luck and accidents with this car. You boys take (it) and keep it," the Post reported. The delighted officers drove the car to a private garage, but soon found the Rolls was bad luck for them too.



TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

TENDER NOTICE NO. 3/88 SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF DIGITAL SWITCHING EQUIPMENTS

Telecommunications Corporation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (TCC) announces Tender No. TCC 3/88 (Supply and Installation of Digital Switching Equipments) as part of the Implementation Programme of the "Five Year Development Plan" to expand the Telephone Network in Jordan.

The project includes:

- Implementation of new large and small digital switching nodes including a combined National & International Switching Centre.
- Expansion and modification of the existing switching network.
- Supply and installation of power systems, air-conditioning and fire alarm equipments.
- Supply and installation of stand by Diesel Generators

Specialised companies are hereby invited to submit their bids in accordance with the Terms, Specifications and Technical Specifications contained in the Bidding Documents.

Bidders are requested to submit in addition to bid price a financing proposal to finance the cost of the subsequent contract to be awarded.

Bidding Documents may be obtained from the office of the Secretary of Tender Committee, Telecommunications Corporation, P.O. Box 1689, Amman, Jordan) as of May 14, 1988 against a payment of a non-refundable fee of five hundred Jordanian Dinars (JD 500).

Bids, accompanied by a Bid Security, are to be submitted in English to the office of the Secretary of Tender Committee not later than 12:00 noon local time on Wednesday, Aug. 31, 1988.

Director General
Eng. Mohammad Shahid Ismail

ملکة من بلاد